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SUNDAY

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## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
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land alienation  
provision of the  
Constitution  
in 2011?

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### Flood Lights

Sconces can serve as primarily functional objects, or they can create a dramatic focal point in a room.

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### Underdog

Hillary Clinton is casting herself as the underdog and said the odds are not in her favor.

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Justin Timberlake is producing an NBC pilot about a bachelor who strikes out with the ladies.

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## Matson hikes fuel surcharge anew

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA  
editor@saipantribune.com  
EDITOR

**M**atson Navigation Co. said Friday that it is raising its fuel related surcharge by 2.25 percentage points due to the record increase in oil prices.

This will boost Matson's fuel surcharge from 31.5 percent to 33.75 percent. The price hike affects Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Micronesia.

The new fuel prices take effect on April 6. The company's last fuel increase was in January.

Matson senior vice president David Hoppes said that fuel related expenses remain a major cost component for the company.

See MATSON on Page 4

## AP Impact: US troops are losing their hearing

By CHELSEA J. CARTER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**SAN DIEGO (AP)**—Soldiers and Marines caught in roadside bombings and firefights in Iraq and Afghanistan are coming home in epidemic numbers with permanent hearing loss and ringing in their ears, prompting the military to redouble its efforts to protect the troops from noise.

Hearing damage is the No. 1 disability in the war on terror, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and some experts say the true toll could take decades to become clear. Nearly 70,000 of the more than 1.3 million troops who have served in the two war zones are collecting disability for tinnitus, a potentially debilitating ringing in the ears, and more than 58,000 are on disability for hearing loss, the VA said.

See AN EPIDEMIC on Page 4

Dr. Kim Gottshall, right, tests the balance of U.S. Army Sgt. Ryan Kahlor, left, at Balboa Navy Medical Center in San Diego, Feb. 6, 2008. Kahlor's hearing was damaged by exposure to multiple IAD blasts in Iraq.

AP



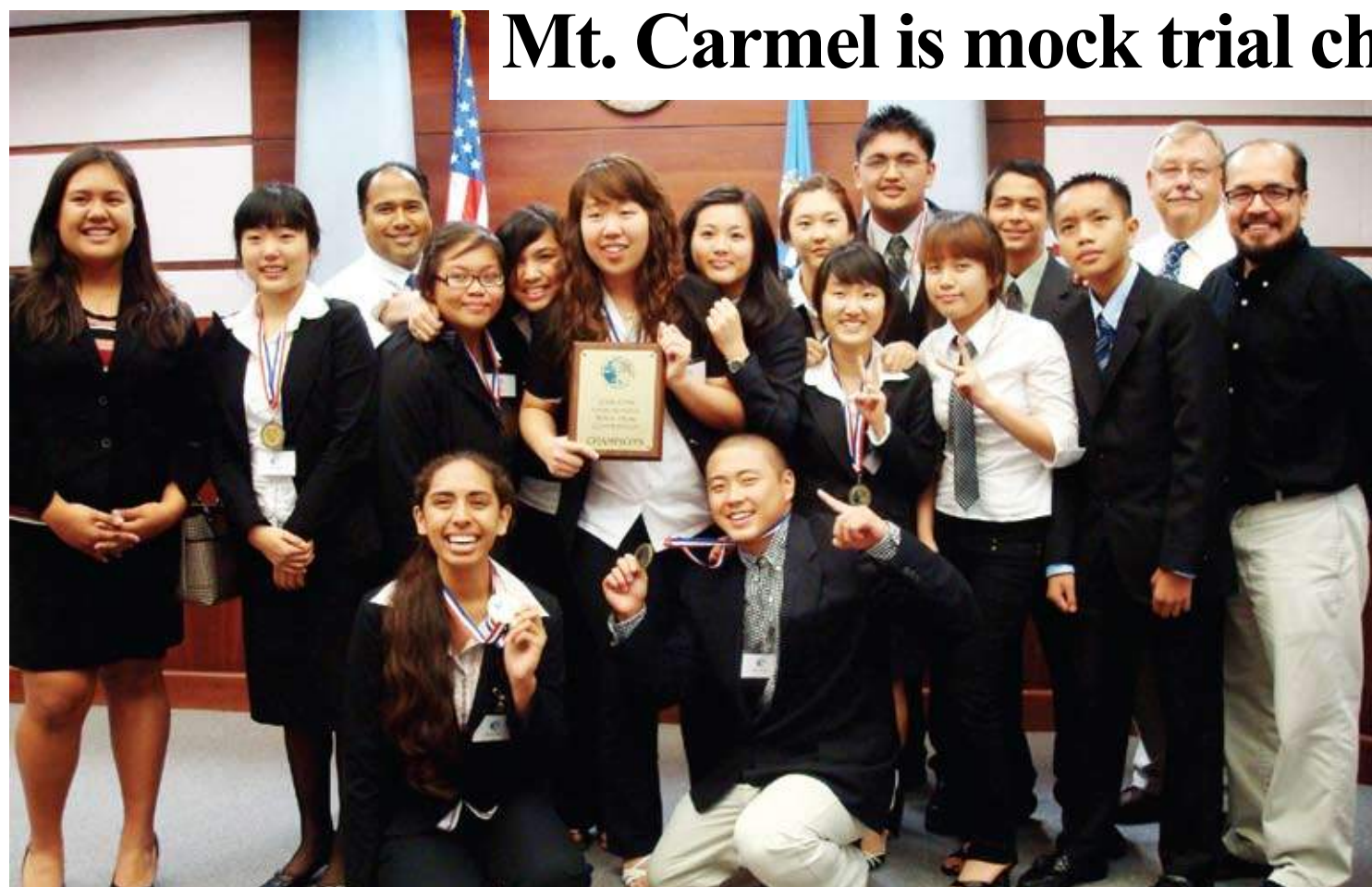
## Mt. Carmel is mock trial champion

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Mt. Carmel High School was adjudged as this year's mock trial champion in the CNMI, besting last year's second placer Marianas Baptist Academy during yesterday's final round at the Superior Court.

Mt. Carmel's team members—Letitia Cabrera, Angela Salas, Ruby Venus, Soo Ji Ha, Mike Villagomez, Chiaki Hiroasawa, Rachel Kim, and Min Joo Jung—jumped from their seats and tightly hugged each other when the team was announced the champion in the two-day competition.

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10th Annual National High School Mock Trial champions Mount Carmel School's Letitia Cabrera, Angela Salas, Ruby Venus, Soo Ji Ha, Mike Villagomez, Chiaki Hiroasawa, Rachel Kim and Min Joo Jung with teacher-coach Galvin Deleon Guerrero, attorney-coach Joe Tajeron and attorney-coach Ed Buckingham gather for a photo during the awarding ceremony at the CNMI Superior Court in Susupe Saturday afternoon. The CNMI Bar Association hosted the prestigious event.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



# Around the CNMI

## Miura hearings hone island artists' drawing skills

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The extensive Japanese media's coverage of businessman Kazuyoshi Miura's proceedings in the Superior Court has helped Saipan artists hone their drawing skills.

With four top Japanese TV stations intensifying their coverage in the Miura hearings, the island's artists were tapped as sketchers since cameras are not

allowed inside the court.

This was the first time in CNMI courts that the media used sketchers to draw the event inside the courtroom and their drawings aired on TV.

During the second hearing in Miura's case held last Monday, Fuji TV brought to the court veteran artist and Komix assistant editor Romy I. Cal.

Nippon Hosokyo Kyokai TV also tagged along award-winning tattoo artist Edward Elenzano.

During the third hearing last Wednesday, three other island artists joined in the courtroom when Tokyo Broadcasting System TV sought help from artist Al Arao, while TV Asahi brought in sisters Hee Jung Sin and Ah Jung Sin.

The Sin sisters, who are former students of Marianas High School's Formal Advanced Placement Studio Art, used pastel style in drawing the personalities at the hearing.

Cal told *Saipan Tribune* that he finished only six sketches in the first hearing that he attended because the proceeding lasted only 30 minutes.

Cal said he did 10 drawings in the next hearing because it lasted for about five hours and that he was already familiar with the face of Miura and two of his lawyers—Bruce Berline and Mark Hanson.

He said that at first he was nervous, but Fuji TV's senior

news producer Arlene Espiritu was a great help in guiding him with the concepts.

"It's exciting. It really motivates you. It was my first time to do it in the courtroom," Cal said.

Espiritu said Cal did an excellent job and that her superior was very satisfied.

It was also a first for Elenzano, who is known on the island as tattoo expert. Elenzano said it was not really difficult for him because he is also an "on the spot artist."

He made six sketches in the first hearing and completed nine

in the second hearing.

"I am very happy and honored because my drawings were on TV worldwide," Elenzano said.

For the 2006 and 2007 graduates, the Sin sisters said they are very happy to have been given the opportunity to show their talent to a Japanese TV.

They said it was difficult because some people were standing in the courtroom and thus blocking their views of the defendant and lawyers.

"We love it. It's challenging," the sisters said.



### PLAY BUFFET

The cast members of the Voices of the Marianas new production, *The Play Buffet: A Little Something for Everyone's Taste*, headed by its producer and director Barbara Sher gather for their finale after their successful show at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Friday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

## Possible benefits for Prior Service recipients

The Prior Service Trust Fund Administration has issued a list of 235 individuals or their surviving spouse who may be eligible for Prior Service benefits.

Prior Service Trust Fund adviser Jerold F. Facey is requesting these individuals to contact his office about important information related to possible benefits.

"If you or your deceased spouse's name is listed and you worked for the U.S. Navy or Trust Territory government for five or more years before July 1, 1968, please call the Prior Service Office at 322-9753 only on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 8am and 12 noon.

"However, if your name is listed and you are still working for the government or private sector, please do not call until you retire," said Facey.

The Prior Service Office will be issuing the names on the list every three to five days, until all the names are published. A previous list was published on March 5, 2008.

Camacho, Bernardino Duenas  
Camacho, Carlos S.  
Camacho, Dolores Benavente  
Camacho, Elphidia P.  
Camacho, Fermina Mendiola

Camacho, Jose Roberto  
Camacho, Luis Salas  
Camacho, Sernion O.  
Camacho, Thomas S.  
Castro, Agnes P.  
Castro, Daniel Pangelinan  
Castro, Elizabeth K.  
Castro, Herman I.  
Castro, Ignacio Lizama  
Castro, Jesus C.  
Castro, Jesus L.  
Castro, Manuel M.  
Castro, Maria Sablan  
Castro, Ramon  
Castro, Ruth  
Castro, Victoria Babauta  
Cepeda, Estella S.  
Cepeda, Felix A.  
Cepeda, Joaquin C.  
Cepeda, Victorino S.  
Chong, Thomasa L.C.  
Cruz, Ignacio Pangelinan  
Cruz, Jesus  
Cruz, Josefa C.  
Cruz, Juana A.  
Dela Cruz, Ignacio  
Dela Cruz, Jesus R.  
Dela Cruz, Jose Masga  
Dela Cruz, Jose Reyes  
Dela Cruz, Thomas C.  
Deleon Guerrero, Dolores T.  
Deleon Guerrero, Manuela B.  
Delos Reyes, Jesus Borja  
Delos Santos, Ronaldo M.  
Demapan, Pedro Borja

## Wanted: Concessionaires, entertainers for LibDay

The 2008 Liberation Day Committee is now accepting applications for the 200 Liberation Day Carnival Grounds Booth Concessions.

Interested individuals and/or firms may pick up application forms at the Office of the Mayor of Saipan in the Afetnas Square in San Antonio.

As the number of booths will be limited, booths will be issued on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Deadline for submission of concession application is April 30, 2008 at the Saipan's Mayor Office.

For more information, contact Concessions Committee chair

Piding Tenorio at 287-8091 for further details.

The Liberation Day festivities will start on Friday, June 6, 2008, and end on Sunday, July 6, 2008.

Also, the committee, in collaboration with the Office of the Mayor of Saipan, said it is now accepting applications for entertainers who will perform nightly during the 2008 Liberation Day Festivities.

All interested individuals and/or groups may pick up an application at the Saipan Mayor's Office or contact the chairman of the Entertainment Committee, Nolas Kaliga at 322-3366 for further details. (PR)

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# 'NMI must have a plan, alternative to S.2483'

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA  
editor@saipantribune.com  
EDITOR

Merely reacting to pressures from Washington D.C. on the federalization and minimum wage issues is not the most effective way to handle these matters. The CNMI must come up with a plan that will address these issues consistently and continuously to ensure that policy-makers and lawmakers in the nation's capital are aware of local conditions.

This was the gist of the message that the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands conveyed to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial during Wednesday's membership meeting at the Pacific Islands Club.

HANMI chairwoman Lynn Knight said that a lot of the people she and Chamber president Jim Arenovski met in Washington D.C. have not met with representatives of the CNMI before nor were they aware of what's happening on the ground here.

"Yes, we have a Washington office but we don't really have a plan for how to address pieces of legislation like this while others in D.C. are on an ongoing basis and everybody we've met with have not met with the CNMI before," Knight said.

She emphasized that there are more people in the nation's capital who could have an impact on CNMI issues—on the money that the islands receive, economic support, regional issues, and committees that have jurisdiction over various topics in the CNMI. "There's a lot of people that need an education about the CNMI," she said.

Arenovski also stressed that the CNMI needs business representation in Washington D.C. "In my opinion, we need to be able to rely on our own organizations to go out there and tell them about the state of our economy. ... We need to be able to go out there and meet with the folks in the committees that have jurisdictions over us," he said.

The best way to achieve this, Knight said, is to come up with a program that will allow the CNMI to continue to educate federal and congressional people to ensure that the CNMI will always have a voice on any policy changes that may have an impact on the Commonwealth.

"Bottom line, we cannot just keep going in there on an emergency basis and asking for favors from people that don't know us and haven't been briefed. We need to have an ongoing program year-round to continue making friends in Washington," she said.

At the same time, Knight said, the CNMI needs to come up with an alternative bill to S. 2483, the federal immigration measure.

"One of the things that they've asked us was, 'Okay, given this whole scenario, what are your



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Jim Arenovski and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands Chairwoman Lynn Knight together with Gov. Benigno Fitial and Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos, during the SCC's general membership meeting at the Pacific Island Club's Charley Cabaret Wednesday.

recommendations?' We possibly need to be prepared with an alternative that takes care of our needs here and provides a safety net. If our economy should crash, if this [federalization] should be forced upon us, what

are they going to do to help us? Not just help prop up the economy but help our economy grow into the future," said Knight.

This was echoed by Arenovski, who said that the CNMI government must come up with

its own solutions to the problems that the federalization bill is supposed to address.

"Having a bill that comes out from the governor is important. There might be some suggestions to invite Homeland Secu-

rity over to take a look at our system. My suggestion is to go a bit further: Maybe Homeland Security and or Labor might want to come and take a look at our system because it is certainly not broken; it is certainly a working system," he said.

Arenovski believes that pressure from Washington D.C. will continue to happen so long as local issues are not resolved.

"I don't think that this is going to go away. Obviously I think people are going to continue to push this issue whether it passes and even if it doesn't, it's going to continue to come up and I think that is something that we have to be aware of," he said.

He pointed out that S. 2483 was intended to address conditions that existed some 10 to 15 years ago but those situations no longer exist. "Our economy is completely different, it no longer stands on two legs, it stands on one leg and that's tourism. We need to come up with some solutions," he said. "We just can't complain. We have the problem, we need to come up with solutions. And that's where the membership, the businesses

come in. We need your input on what you think might be a viable solution."

He also addressed the need for businesses to educate themselves on the laws and any proposed changes to these laws. "We need to be well-versed. There's a lot of misinformation, a lot of skewed information that, in my opinion, is not 100 percent correct, so I strongly suggest that members go out there and read the bill, come up with suggestions, and bring it to the Chamber. This is something that we have to work with together with the people in D.C. and the government, to come up with a way to warding off future attacks."

Knight and Arenovski flew to Washington D.C. in late January and again in late February to conduct a joint Chamber-HANMI public information campaign targeting key members of U.S. Congress, departments and agencies. They made presentations on the CNMI economy to argue against further minimum wage increases and the passage of the bill federalizing the CNMI's immigration system.

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# Labor sanctions ex-Kagman High principal for tardiness

The Department of Labor has sanctioned former Kagman High School principal Doreen M. Tudela for tardiness in processing documents to hire an alien worker.

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Jerry Cody, however stressed that the tardiness was minor and ordered Tudela to pay a \$125 sanction.

Cody reversed the Labor director's decision to deny Tudela's application to hire Corazon P. Quiachon and directed the employer to correct the defi-

ciencies with the application.

"Tudela's failure to meet the deadline was certainly negligent," the hearing officer said.

The employer explained that she miscalculated the deadline because she believed the 45-day period did not include weekends and holidays.

Labor records show that Quiachon previously worked under a nonresident work permit that expired on Oct. 13, 2007. She was allowed 45 days to secure a transfer employer who was required to file a transfer applica-

tion within that period.

The deadline to file the transfer application was Nov. 27, 2007.

Tudela filed a transfer application to employ Quiachon as a "mixer" for her business known as Sierra's Pearl Shakes on Dec. 4, 2007—seven days after the deadline.

Labor denied the application on the grounds that it was untimely filed. Tudela and Quiachon appealed.

In his administrative order, Cody pointed out that the evidence shows that Quiachon

found Tudela, who agreed to hire her at least three weeks before the transfer period expired.

The parties signed the application on Nov. 3, 2007.

Thereafter, Cody said, Quiachon has every reason to believe that the employer would file the application before the deadline.

However, Tudela filed the application seven days late.

"At the time the employer filed the application, the transfer application was not only late but was also deficient in several respects," Cody noted.

The hearing officer said insufficient evidence was presented at the hearing to determine whether the employer attempted to correct any deficiencies.

Labor represented that numerous deficiencies remain uncorrected at the present time.

The Labor director did not oppose reversing the denial provided that Tudela pays a monetary sanction and corrects all deficiencies within a limited time period.

In this case, Cody said, the employee made a good faith

effort to find work and found Tudela well before her transfer period expired.

Tudela agreed to hire the worker and prepared and signed the contract, but then took an entire month to submit the application.

Cody said Tudela also miscalculated the transfer period and filed the application seven days late.

"The tardiness of the application was entirely the fault of the employer—not the employee," Cody said. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## Matson price hike takes effect April 6

From Page 1

"Fuel prices have continued to be adversely affected by unprecedented demands for oil in the world market," said Hoppes. "While we recognize the impact these increases have on our customers and consumers in general, fuel consumption is an unavoidable cost that touches virtually all aspects of our operations."

Matson competitor Horizon Lines has yet to issue a statement whether it will also increase its fuel surcharge. Horizon Lines last increased its fuel surcharge on Feb. 4, 2008, by three percentage points to a record 32 percent.

With island economies dependent on freight for goods, this makes them more sensitive to the ripple effects of oil price changes. As such, this increase in Matson's

freight fuel charges will inevitably result in increases in the prices of basic commodities.

On Friday, oil prices jumped to a new record above \$106 but settled lower, extending their recent pattern of choppy trading.

At the pump, meanwhile, gas prices extended their march toward new records, rising 0.4 cent to a national average of \$3.189 a gallon, according to AAA and the Oil Price Infor-

mation Service. Gas prices are 68 cents higher than a year ago, and within a nickel of last May's record price of \$3.227 a gallon. Many analysts expect prices to jump much higher as driving demand picks up in the spring.

Many analysts believe the weak dollar is the reason why oil set new inflation-adjusted records four times this week, and has risen 23 percent in less than a month. (*With Associated Press*)

## An epidemic of hearing loss among US soldiers

From Page 1

"The numbers are staggering," said Theresa Schulz, a former audiologist with the Air Force, past president of the National Hearing Conservation Association and author of a 2004 report titled "Troops Return With Alarming Rates of Hearing Loss."

One major explanation given is the insurgency's use of a fearsome weapon the Pentagon did not fully anticipate: powerful roadside bombs. Their blasts cause violent changes in air pressure that can rupture the eardrum and break bones inside the ear.

Also, much of the fighting consists of ambushes, bombings and firefights, which come suddenly and unexpectedly, giving soldiers no time to use their military-issued hearing protection.

"They can't say, 'Wait a minute, let me put my earplugs in,'" said Dr. Michael E. Hoffer, a Navy captain and one of the country's leading inner-ear specialists. "They are in the fight of their lives."

In addition, some servicemen on patrol refuse to wear earplugs for fear of dulling their senses and missing sounds that can make the difference between life and death, Hoffer and others said. Others were not given earplugs or did not take them along when they were sent into the war zone. And some Marines weren't told how to use their specialized earplugs and inserted them incorrectly.

Hearing damage has been a battlefield risk ever since the introduction of explosives and artillery, and the U.S. military recognized it in Iraq and Afghanistan and issued earplugs early on. But the sheer number

of injuries and their nature—particularly the high incidence of tinnitus—came as a surprise to military medical specialists and outside experts.

The military has responded over the past three years with better and easier-to-use earplugs, greater efforts to educate troops about protecting their hearing, and more testing in the war zone to detect ear injuries.

The results aren't in yet on the new measures, but Army officials believe they will significantly slow the rate of new cases of hearing damage, said Col. Kathy Gates, the Army surgeon general's audiology adviser.

Considerable damage has already been done.

For former Staff Sgt. Ryan Kelly, 27, of Austin, Texas, the noise of war is still with him more than four years after the simultaneous explosion of three roadside bombs near Baghdad.

"It's funny, you know. When it happened, I didn't feel my leg gone. What I remember was my ears ringing," said Kelly, whose leg was blown off below the knee in 2003. Today, his leg has been replaced with a prosthetic, but his ears are still ringing.

"It is constantly there," he said. "It constantly reminds me of getting hit. I don't want to sit here and think about getting blown up all the time. But that's what it does."

Sixty percent of U.S. personnel exposed to blasts suffer from permanent hearing loss, and 49 percent also suffer from tinnitus, according to military audiology reports. The hearing damage ranges from mild, such as an inability to hear whispers or low pitches, to severe, including total deafness or a constant loud ringing that destroys the

ability to concentrate. There is no known cure for tinnitus or hearing loss.

The number of servicemen and servicewomen on disability because of hearing damage is expected to grow 18 percent a year, with payments totaling \$1.1 billion annually by 2011, according to an analysis of VA data by the American Tinnitus Association. Anyone with at least a 10 percent loss in hearing qualifies for disability.

From World War II and well through Vietnam, hearing damage has been a leading disability.

Despite everything that has been learned over the years, U.S. troops are suffering hearing damage at about the same rate as World War II vets, according to VA figures. But World War II and Iraq cannot easily be compared. World War II was a different kind of war, waged to a far greater extent by way of vast artillery barrages, bombing raids and epic tank battles.

Given today's fearsome weaponry, even the best hearing protection is only partly effective—and only if it's properly used.

Some Marines were issued a \$7.40 pair of double-sided earplugs, with one side designed to protect from weapons fire and explosions, the other from aircraft and tank noise. But the Marines were not given instructions in how to use the earplugs, and some cut them in half, while others used the wrong sides, making the devices virtually useless, Hoffer said. Today, instructions are handed out with the earplugs.

In any case, hearing protection has its limits. While damage can occur at 80 to 85 decibels—the noise level of a moving tank—the best protection cuts that by

only 20 to 25 decibels. That is not enough to protect the ears against an explosion or a fire-fight, which can range upwards of 183 decibels, said Dr. Ben Balough, a Navy captain and chairman of otolaryngology at the Balboa Navy Medical Center in San Diego.

The Navy and Marines have begun buying and distributing state-of-the-art earplugs, known as QuietPro, that contain digital processors that block out damaging sound waves from gunshots and explosions and still allow users to hear everyday noises. They cost about \$600 a pair.

The Army also has equipped every soldier being sent to Iraq and Afghanistan with newly developed one-sided earplugs that cost about \$8.50, and it has begun testing QuietPro with some troops.

In addition, the Navy is working with San Diego-based American BioHealth Group to develop a "hearing pill" that could protect troops' ears. An early study in 2003 on 566 recruits showed a 25 to 27 percent reduction in permanent hearing loss. But further testing is planned.

And for the first time in American warfare, for the past three years, hearing specialists or hearing-trained medics have been put on the front lines instead of just at field hospitals, Hoffer said.

Marines and soldiers are getting hearing tests before going on patrol and when they return to base if they were exposed to bombs or gunfire.

"You have guys that don't want to admit they have a problem," Hoffer said. "But if they can't hear what they need to on patrol, they could jeopardize their lives, their buddies' lives and, ultimately, their mission."

## School ends eight-year drought in mock trial championship

From Page 1

With the victory, Mt. Carmel will represent the CNMI in the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Delaware this May.

Mt. Carmel's Jung was also chosen as best defense attorney, along with Kagman High School's Mercilyn Kaneshi.

The triumph snapped Mt. Carmel's eight-year championship drought in the mock trial competition. The school was the first champion when the mock trial was introduced by the late Judge and Justice Ramon G. Villagomez in 1999.

Board of Education member Galvin Deleon Guerrero served as Mt. Carmel's teacher-coach, while assistant attorneys general Joe Tajjeron and Ed Buckingham took the role of attorney-coach.

Former attorney general Robert Torres was the presiding judge in the championship round.

Second placer Marianas Baptist Academy was composed of Xiao Tian Falig, Anita Hofschneider, Laura Lee, Sarah Lee, So Young Lee, Dencio Manglona, Frank Yeung, and Debora Yoon. It was MBA's third successive second place victory since 2006.

MBA's Hofschneider was named best prosecution attorney.

Peter J. Coleman was MBA's teacher-coach, while attorneys Rex Kosack and Glenn Jewell served as attorney-coach.

Saipan Southern High School bagged the third place, while Kagman High School was fourth.

Saipan Southern's Johnna Lubuguin was selected as best defense witness. Rota High School's Joseph Taimanao was the best prosecution witness.

Last year's champion, Tinian High School, did not make it to the semifinal round. The other participants were Rota High School, Marianas High School, and Grace Christian Academy.

The other judges who presided over the trials were associate justice Alexandro Castro, associate judges David Wiseman and Juan T. Lizama, former judge Timothy H. Bellas, assistant attorney general Mike Nisperos, Office of the Public Auditor's Nancy Gottfried, attorney Mike Ernest, law clerk Sonny Downer, and former Labor hearing officer Linn Asper.

CNMI High School mock trial coordinator Attorney Karen M. Klaver told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that this was the first time where some of the jurors—Joanna Arriola and Geraldine Demapan—were former mock trial participants.

Klaver said that this year featured "very strong teams."

"Every year seems to get more competitive, students trained harder and trained longer. They know the rules and the problems," said the Public School System legal counsel.

She said they used a very difficult problem this year—a murder case—that was used by Tennessee when their team won the mock trial championship.

"So we tried to find a difficult problem because the competition is just so competitive and the students just seem to get stronger every year," Klaver said.

The same murder case problem, she said, will be used for the Humanities Council-sponsored junior high mock trial that will kick off in three weeks.

"We had less donations this year, but we still have good support from the community because the whole event is essentially community-sponsored," she added.

The goals of the competition are promote and further the understanding and appreciation of the judicial system, court procedures, and the legal system, among others.

Tinian represented the CNMI at the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Dallas, Texas last year. One of the team members, Nikita Mendiola, won the most effective witness among all the states, territories, and countries that joined the event.





### HOLE IN THE WALL

A big hole is dug up beside the Micronesia Legal Services office on Capital Hill yesterday to replace a broken pipe.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

# Man in poker robbery gets a year in prison

By **FERDIE DELA TORRE**  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a one-year prison term on a man who was charged in two poker robbery cases and one burglary incident.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Weider Debengek to three years in prison, all suspended except for one year, for theft of vehicle.

Wiseman sentenced Debengek to three years imprisonment, all suspended except for one year, for burglary.

Following a plea agreement, the judge said the sentence in one case shall run concurrently with the sentence in the second case. This means that the total jail sentence for the two cases is just one year.

Wiseman also gave the defendant credit for the time he has already served in jail.

Debengek is expected to be released

from the Department of Corrections on Oct. 23, 2008 at 8am.

Wiseman said that, upon release from DOC, Debengek, a Palauan, shall be immediately deported.

He ordered the defendant to pay a \$500 restitution to KB Poker and \$25 in court assessment fee.

In the event Debengek is not deported, he is required to perform 200 hours of community work service, pay a probation fee, and undergo initial evaluation for counseling, including anger management and alcohol counseling.

Debengek was charged with conspiracy to commit robbery and theft, robbery as a principal, theft as a principal, and theft of a vehicle.

In the second case, the defendant was charged with burglary and theft.

In the third case, Debengek was charged with robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and assault and battery. In this case, the court dismissed the robbery charge. The government has not filed an amended information.

The defendant and counsel Bruce

Berline signed a plea agreement with the government represented by assistant attorney general Melissa Simms.

Debengek pleaded guilty to theft of a vehicle in the first case. He also pleaded guilty to burglary in the second case.

The third case and the remaining charges in two cases were dismissed pursuant to the plea agreement.

On or between March 25 and 26, 2007, Debengek stole a 2005 Toyota Matrix from Yuying Jiao Etpison.

On April 25, 2007, the defendant burglarized the building of Lian Tian with the purpose of committing theft.

In May 2007, police arrested Debengek and two other men for allegedly staging an armed robbery at KB Poker in Koblerville on March 26, 2007.

Detectives learned that before the suspects robbed KB Poker, they stole Etpison's Matrix car and used it as their getaway vehicle. The car was later abandoned that day at an unoccupied residence in Koblerville.

Police said a cashier was injured during the robbery at KB Poker.

## \$500M in firefighters grants available

The Department of Homeland Security's Grant Programs Directorate has begun accepting applications for the Fiscal Year 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grants beginning March 3, 2008, with the deadline for receipt of the applications no later than April 4, 2008, at 5pm EDT.

The AFG, which will be distributed in phases throughout FY 2007, will ultimately award approximately \$500 million.

Eligible applicants for the FY 2008 AFG are limited to fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service (EMS) organizations operating within the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the Com-

monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Fire departments that have questions regarding this grant opportunity should contact the Help Desk at 1-866-274-0960 or email to firegrants@dhs.gov. During the application period, Help Desk hours will be from 8am to 8pm, Monday through Friday, and on Saturdays from 8am to 4:30pm EDT. Additional Help Desk hours may be added if demand is high.

Interested applicants may submit two separate applications for consideration under each of the following two program areas:

■ Operations and Safety Program Area: Eligible activities for fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations are limited to training, equipment,

personal protective equipment, wellness and fitness, and modifications to facilities.

■ Vehicle Acquisition Program Area: Eligible apparatus available to fire departments under this program area include, but are not limited to, pumpers, brush trucks, tankers/tenders, rescue vehicles, ambulances, quints, aerials, foam units, and fireboats.

The FY 2008 AFG will also allow eligible applicants to submit an additional application for a regional project through which multiple organizations, serving more than one local jurisdiction, may benefit directly from the activities implemented with the grant funds.

To apply for the grant, visit <http://www.firegrantsupport.com/afg/>. (DHS)

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

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## EDITORIAL

### Allies of terrorism

Last Saturday, Colombia's armed forces struck a bold blow against the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), a group specializing in drug trafficking, abductions and massacres of civilians that has been designated a terrorist organization by the United States and Europe. Raul Reyes, a top commander, and some 20 followers were killed in a bombing of their jungle camp in Ecuador, a mile or two from the Colombian border. The attack was comparable to those the United States has recently carried out against al-Qaida in lawless areas of Pakistan, and it showed how Colombia's democratic government may be finally gaining the upper hand over the murderous gangs that have tormented the country for decades.

Now this remarkable success has been overshadowed by the extraordinary reaction of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who has been revealed as an explicit supporter and possible financier of the FARC. Mr. Chavez openly mourned the death of Mr. Reyes and made a show of ordering Venezuelan troops to the border with Colombia while loudly warning that war was possible. He goaded his client, Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa—whose initial response to the raid was subdued—into mimicking his reaction. He then partially closed the border with Colombia, a step that will merely worsen the food shortages that have emptied Venezuelan supermarket shelves.

It turns out that both Mr. Chavez and Mr. Correa may have had something to hide. Senior Colombian officials say a laptop recovered at the FARC camp contained evidence that Mr. Chavez had recently given the group \$300 million and had financial links with the terrorists dating to his own failed coup against a previous Venezuelan government in 1992. Colombia said Mr. Correa's government had been negotiating with Mr. Reyes about replacing Ecuadorean military officers who might object to his use of the country as a base. In other words, both Mr. Correa and Mr. Chavez were backing an armed movement with an established record of terrorism and drug trafficking against the democratically elected government of their neighbor. No wonder Colombian President Alvaro Uribe felt compelled to order the cross-border raid; he knows that his neighbors are providing a haven for the terrorists.

There's little chance that this will lead to conventional war, despite the bluster of Mr. Chavez. The more interesting question is how average citizens in Venezuela and Ecuador will react. The FARC is despised across the region for its criminality and brutality; many Venezuelans have been shocked to learn of Mr. Chavez's alliance with the group. According to Mr. Chavez's former defense minister, Raul Baduel, the Venezuelan military is troubled by the saber-rattling at Colombia. In his zeal to divert attention from a rapidly worsening domestic economic situation and his defeat in a recent referendum, Mr. Chavez is growing increasingly reckless. The principal danger, however, may be to his own country and government.

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### The arms race myth, again

With a stridency reminiscent of the Cold War, outgoing Russian President Vladimir Putin charged last month that with U.S. plans for a limited defense against ballistic missiles, "a new arms race has been unleashed in the world." He vowed to field new weapons, which have been under development for years, "in response." The same day, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said he anticipated "hundreds of thousands of missile interceptors all over the world ... in the foreseeable future."

Both claims are wrong. Despite a near universal belief to the contrary, the "action-reaction-upward-spiraling strategic weapons race" of the Cold War never really happened. And Lavrov's hundreds of thousands of missile interceptors won't happen either.

The idea that the United States and the Soviet Union were locked in an arms race that led to reciprocal increases in nuclear weapons, steadily rising strategic budgets and an escalating danger of nuclear war was widely accepted during the Cold War. Its most vivid metaphor was spun by Paul Warnke, Jimmy Carter's director of arms control, who portrayed the United States and the Soviet Union as "apes on a treadmill," mindlessly piling weapon upon weapon. Warnke and others called for arms control treaties to control the "mad momentum" of the race.

But as is often the case with conventional wisdom, little serious research was done to establish whether it was true. The most important exception was the work of the late Albert Wohlstetter, America's pre-eminent strategic thinker, who approached the subject with his customary rigor. In a 1976 article—"Racing Forward? Or Ambling Back?"—Wohlstetter demonstrated that U.S. and Soviet strategic weapons programs were largely independent of each other and that the number, explosive power and cost of American nuclear weapons had peaked 15 years earlier (under Defense Secretary Robert McNamara) and had been declining ever since, even as Soviet programs had expanded significantly.

Using the same data that had been available to the many academics and politicians who unquestioningly accepted the existence of a deadly arms race, Wohlstetter argued that it would be foolish in principle for us to respond in kind to every Soviet development—and that in practice we had not done so. He argued for building only the strategic forces we needed, reducing their number and explosive power, and making them as precise as possible. He believed that nuclear weapons had only a limited, defensive role to play in a carefully designed strategic posture and that a policy of seeking safety in threats to destroy whole countries in retaliation was neither credible nor moral.

By RICHARD N. PERLE

Special to The Washington Post

The writer, a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, had responsibility for the Strategic Defense Initiative as assistant secretary of defense in the Reagan administration.



With his rhetoric, Putin hopes to excite the opponents of a limited U.S. missile defense system and those politicians here and abroad who will be unnerved by Russian threats of a new "arms race."

They—and he—should relax. For one thing, the greatly diminished American nuclear force still has many more weapons than it needs. Far from responding in a way that lends credence to Putin's false claim, we should be looking for ways to reduce our nuclear forces still further. We should greet Russian threats to race with amusement and a big yawn: They would be competing against themselves. If Putin wishes to pour petro-rubles into building more missiles, our response should be limited to sympathy for the ordinary Russians whose taxes will be squandered, much as they were with catastrophic consequences during the Cold War.

As for Lavrov's "hundreds of thousands" of missile interceptors, dividing by a thousand would be a reassuring start. U.S. plans call for a modest number of interceptors, dozens at first, a hundred or so later, maybe 200 or 300 after that. The program is limited because the threat is measured in tens of missiles, not hundreds and certainly not thousands. With North Korea and Iran building ballistic missiles with significant and increasing range, a modest defense is a prudent first step toward countering a known threat.

Without any missile defense—our current situation—we are vulnerable to any country or movement that manages to obtain even a single missile capable of reaching the United States. Our allies and troops abroad are in greater jeopardy because shorter-range missiles, which are already available, can reach them. In a future that may well include several new nuclear-armed states or perilous changes to existing ones (can we be certain that Pakistan's missiles will not wind up in extremist hands?), containing the spread of nuclear weapons will be as difficult as it is urgent. Possession of even a limited defense should be a powerful discouragement to would-be proliferators—and if they persist, well, I'd rather see a missile shot down than feel it land.



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## Dumb and dumber: An essay and its editors

I've never watched Oprah Winfrey's show, bought a Celine Dion CD, read "Eat, Pray, Love," or fainted at an Obama rally, although he is my preferred candidate. According to Charlotte Allen, that makes me an "outlier," an exception that proves the rule that women "always fall for the hysterical, the superficial and the gooiily sentimental." But uh-oh: I used to watch "Grey's Anatomy" from time to time, and I even shed some tears when Denny died. Maybe being female has turned my "pre-frontal cortex into Cream of Wheat" after all. Maybe I'm just another "kind of dim" female, a charter member of "the dumber sex."

In a casual essay of 1,700 words, Allen manages to stir together a breathtaking mishmash of misogynistic irrelevancies and generalizations. One minute she's mocking women who bake cookies for their dogs; the next, she's castigating Hillary Clinton's campaign as "stupidest" partly because she fired her "daytime-soap-watching" Latina campaign manager too close to the Texas primary. (Note to Allen: Hillary won Texas with a flood of Latino votes.) She wonders why "no man contracts nebulous diseases" of possibly psychosomatic origins. (Note to Allen: Actually, they do.) She asks why women have more driving accidents. (Note to Allen: See below.) Could it be because women are mentally inferior, as proved by men's greater ability to mentally rotate three-dimensional objects in space? Unless it's a cute little puppy, that is, or maybe a cookie.

The upshot: we ladies should focus on what we're really good at—interior decoration and taking care of men and children.

Oh, gag me with a spoon. Sure, girly culture can be silly—but what does that prove? It's not as though men spend their evenings leafing through the plays of Moliere. Susie whips up doggy treats, Mike surfs porn sites; she curls up with the Friday Night Knitting Club, he watches football. Or maybe the two of them watch "Grey's Anatomy" together—surprise, surprise, about half the show's audience is male. If you go by cultural preferences, actually, you could just as well claim that women are obviously smarter than men—look around you at the museum, the theater, the opera house, the ballet, the concert hall. Women read more than men, too, especially fiction, which men tend to avoid. (A story about things that didn't happen? How does that work?) Women even read fiction by men and about men, further evidence of their imaginative powers—while men, if they do pick up a novel, make sure it's estrogen-free. Who's really the dim bulb, the woman who doesn't see the beauty of "Grand Theft Auto," or the man who thinks Tom Clancy is a great writer?

For Allen, it's definitely the woman: her brain is just too puny. She cannot mentally rotate three-dimensional objects in space—and that, as we all know, is the very definition of smarts. Funny how that definition keeps changing, as women conquer field after field that was supposed to be beyond them. In the 19th century, physicians insisted women couldn't cope with college: studying would send rushing to their brains the blood that was needed for the womb. Back then, nobody credited women with the superior verbal abilities and memories Allen says scientists now find women to possess.

True to form, she dismisses these as minor talents that only helped her "coast" through school and life. But back when the experts were

explaining why women couldn't be lawyers or professors or poets (at least not very good poets), nobody said verbal skills and memory were trivial; they only became trivial when women were found to excel at them. Now the sexists diss women as inferior mental-object-rotators. I have no idea whether this is true, and whether if so it's unchangeable, but you have to admit this is a very narrow scrap of turf on which to plant the flag of manly superiority.

Oh, but I was forgetting driving, a crucial skill. Allen claims that the misogynist canard is true: thanks to their superior visuospatial abilities, men (although maybe not gay men?) are better drivers, with 5.1 accidents per million miles compared to women's 5.7. "The only good news," she adds, is that because they take fewer risks, women's accidents are only a third as likely to be fatal. That's a very interesting definition of ability behind the

Girls swooning for Obama, Elizabeth Gilbert leaving her "perfectly okay husband" to eat, pray, love and write a huge best-seller, Meredith Grey and Dr. McDreamy smooching between surgeries, Hillary Clinton running for president instead of spending the rest of her life apologizing for her marriage—it does indeed make a picture. But it isn't one of women's unique "stupidity"—raise your hand if you think Hillary Clinton has a lower I.Q. than George W. Bush.

wheel: the better drivers are the ones who take more risks and are three times as likely to end up dead.

Why did Allen, by accounts a good reporter on religion in a previous life, write this silly piece? It's tempting to say she wrote it because she exemplifies the dimness and illogicality she describes—after all, this is a woman who cheerfully claims not to be able to add much beyond 2+2. But I suspect that Allen, who works for the right-wing anti-feminist Independent Women's Forum, is just annoyed that so many educated middle-class women are cultural, social and political moderates and liberals. Democrats, in other words.

Girls swooning for Obama, Elizabeth Gilbert leaving her "perfectly okay husband" to eat, pray, love and write a huge best-seller, Meredith Grey and Dr. McDreamy smooching between surgeries, Hillary Clinton running for president instead of spending the rest of her life apologizing for her marriage—it

By **KATHA POLLITT**

*Special to washingtonpost.com*

*Katha Pollitt, a poet and essayist, is author, most recently, of Learning to Drive and Other Life Stories.*



does indeed make a picture. But it isn't one of women's unique "stupidity"—raise your hand if you think Hillary Clinton has a lower I.Q. than George W. Bush. What bothers Allen about this picture is that these women reject, with every fiber of their latte-loving beings, the abstinence-only, father-knows-best, slut-shaming crabbed misogyny of the Republican right.

A far more important question is this: Why did *The Post* publish this nonsense? I can't imagine a great newspaper airing comparable trash talk about any other group. "Asians Really Do Just Copy." "No Wonder Africa's Such a Mess: It's Full of Black People!" Misogyny is the last acceptable prejudice, and nowhere more so than in our nation's clueless and overwhelmingly white-male-controlled media. I can just picture the edit meeting: This time, let's get a woman to say women are dumb and silly! If readers raise too big a ruckus, Outlook editor John Pomfret can say it was all "tongue in cheek." Women are dingbats! Get it? Ha. Ha. Ha.

Here's a thought. Maybe there's another thing women can do besides fluff up their husbands' pillows: Fill more important jobs at *The Washington Post*. We should be half the assigning editors, half the writers, and half the regular columnists too (current roster of op-ed columnists: 16 men, two women). We've got those superior verbal skills, remember? Drastically increasing the presence of women isn't a foolproof recipe for gender fairness—Allen is far from alone in her dislike of her sex—but I have to believe a gender-balanced paper would reflect a broader view of women than *The Post* does at present.

A male editor with a lot of women colleagues on his level might think twice before proposing a sweeping denunciation, humorous or not, of "women." Ideally he would have come to respect women as equals from working with them—but if he were just afraid of being seen as a total caveman, that would be okay too. And maybe this kind of editor would have flagged as tired clichés references to Oprah and Celine Dion; would have looked up the studies Allen claims prove women have the I.Q. of a bowl of cereal and found they don't say anything like that; would have wondered if more women bake doggy treats than subscribe to *Scientific American* or run marathons, and how does the treat-baker come to stand for all women?

And then, after all this, and seeing that Allen's piece still didn't ring even vaguely-kind-of-sorta true, our imaginary editor would have asked a question. "You know what I think of this article?" a good editor would have said. "I think it's really stupid."

## There's praise and there's pride

I'm not going to pretend I knew what Michelle Obama meant when, at a rally in Milwaukee, she said that, "For the first time in my adult lifetime, I'm really proud of my country." She later said she meant she was proud of people "rolling up their sleeves" and "trying to figure this out," which I take to mean she wasn't so sure either.

The comment itself, of course, was woefully misguided, though, in my view, more for its vagueness and carelessness than for what it did or did not reveal about Obama's national loyalty. What interested me more was what the ensuing brouhaha revealed about "pride" as both a word and a concept. As the lyrics to most country songs will attest, having "pride in your country" can be as easy as buying a new truck or as harrowing as serving in war. Given the range of options, how could Obama not have accessed this oh-so-accessible feeling in the 26 years she has been an adult?

Maybe she suspects that pride, like stereo equipment or C-pluses in college, has become too cheap for its own good. After all, we seem to be patting ourselves on the back for achievements that, in a society like ours, should simply be expected. We are "proud of our country" when, for example, citizens join together to pile sandbags against flood waters or house their neighbors after a fire. But isn't that just part of basic human decency? The preoccupation with shallow expressions of pride bears an unnerving resemblance to the parental overreaction to the cries of a spoiled child who has been praised for every little thing.

Maybe—just maybe—it has something to do with the baby boomers. By sheer force of numbers and the dumb luck of being teenagers or young adults during the most influential period in modern American history, the boomers, regardless of their political

leanings, managed to convince themselves and everyone else that they not only dominate the culture, they are the culture. As a result, feeling pride in your country became unnervingly indistinguishable from feeling pride in yourself. The lesson: Patriotism can be as simple as taking a glimpse in the mirror.

There are plenty of reasons people like Barack and Michelle Obama might not define pride in quite those terms—class background and race (and critical thinking skills) among them—and therefore maybe their view of pride differs. A subtler yet more salient reason may have to do with how old they are. Although the Obamas may technically be baby boomers (Barack was born in 1961; Michelle was born in 1964, which is generally considered the cutoff), they are too young to occupy the same psychological sphere as bona fide boomers like Bill and Hillary Clinton or George W. Bush.

Whereas those folks were in their early 20s during the Summer of Love, Michelle Obama was just 3 years old. During the sexual revolution, both Obamas were pre-pubescent. During much of the Wall Street boom of the 1980s, they were students. By the time they married in 1992, AIDS had reduced the concept of free love to a misnomer of lethal proportions. This is hardly the boomer narrative.

Writing in the *Atlantic* magazine in December, Andrew Sullivan suggested that Barack Obama, "simply by virtue of when he was born," is the best hope for uniting a country that remains obsessed with the cultural and political fissures that took root in the 1960s. I would take that a step further. The world views of Barack and Michelle Obama are more than just the result of not being baby boomers, they're the result of not being raised by boomers either.

Obama may be quoted in Sullivan's article as saying, "When I

By **MEGHAN DAUM**

*Special to the Los Angeles Times*

*Daum is an essayist and novelist in Los Angeles.*



think of baby boomers, I think of my mother's generation," but he's a bit off. His mother was born in 1942. As groovy as she may have been, she was not, in a strict sense, a boomer. And guess what? It shows. As highly as Obama appears to think of himself, he's too earnest and industrious to fairly be called entitled. That word better suits many of his boomer counterparts—and, one day, their praise-addicted children.

Michelle Obama's mother, for her part, is 70 years old. And although it's easy to imagine her cringing at her daughter's lead-footed comment about pride, it's just as easy to imagine that she might have had an indirect hand in it. We know that Michelle Obama was raised with high expectations and grew into a high-achieving woman who makes formidable demands on herself and others. And while that's due in large part to the opportunities afforded by her country, I'd surmise it also has something to do with her rigorous standards for pride itself.






Being proud, after all, is not a substitute for having high standards, but the natural result of meeting or exceeding them. It's a strategy that works for nations as well as people.



Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
				
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.
▲83° ▼75°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°	▲84° ▼76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼75
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼73

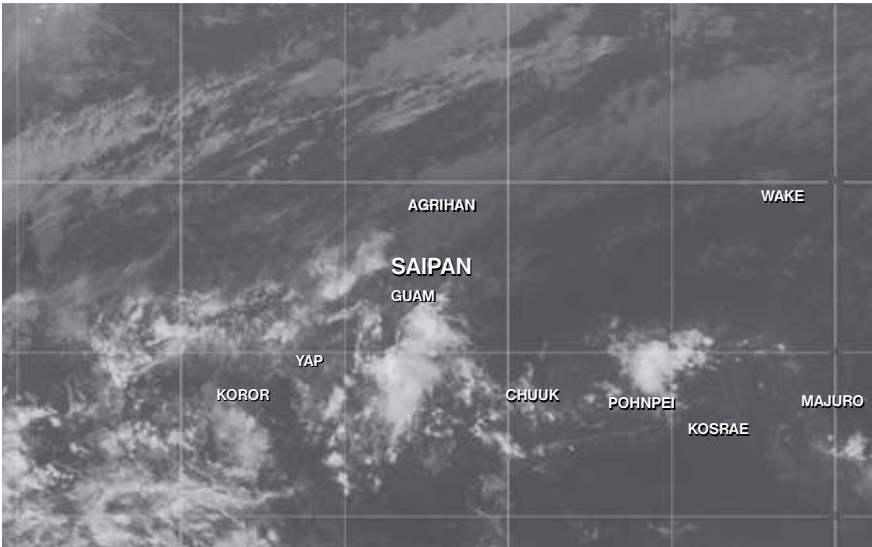
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲71 ▼60
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲65 ▼43
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲77 ▼66
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82 ▼70
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲50 ▼39
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼53
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲74 ▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲89 ▼75
Miami	Sunny	▲73 ▼62
New York	Cloudy	▲38 ▼28
Osaka	Cloudy	▲51 ▼41
Paris	Rain	▲46 ▼33
Pusan	Cloudy	▲61 ▼40
Rome	Cloudy	▲55 ▼46
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲54 ▼38
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲65 ▼48
Seoul	Cloudy	▲49 ▼29
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲56 ▼39
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲50 ▼31

### Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:42AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
8:47AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
3:08PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
9:03PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SATURDAY, MAR. 8, 2008  
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends west-southwestward from 25N180 to 23N172E, then continues as a shear line to 21N161E to near Farallon De Medinilla at 16N146E to beyond 130E at 10N. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 300 miles north of this feature. Convergent trade-winds are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in a small area south-southwest of Koror between 3N and 7N from 130E to 136E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in a large area that extends from east of the Marianas to just east of Yap. This area is bounded by a line from 2N139E to 8N139E to 12N142E to 15N147E to 7N148E back to 2N139E. Another trade-wind disturbance is causing scattered shower and isolated thunderstorm activity over and north of Pohnpei within an area encompassed by a line from 7N160E to 10N157E to 11N163E back to 7N160E. Convergent trade-winds are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms up 150 miles south of a line that extends from 170E to 180 at 4N. This area is well south of Majuro.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:29AM	6:26PM
Monday	6:28AM	6:26PM
Tuesday	6:28AM	6:27PM
Wednesday	6:27AM	6:27PM
Thursday	6:26AM	6:27PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:15AM	7:52PM
Monday	7:57AM	8:51PM
Tuesday	8:42AM	9:52PM
Wednesday	9:32AM	10:56PM
Thursday	10:26AM	12:01AM*

\*Following Day

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  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
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- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 9, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>Saipan-Rota</b> CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	<b>Rota-Saipan</b> CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b> CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>Guam-Saipan</b> CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b> NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily	<b>Narita-Saipan</b> NW 076 10:35am 3:05pm Daily NW 077 6:15pm 1:10am+1 Daily via Nagoya
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b> NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>Osaka-Saipan</b> NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b> NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b> NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Manila</b> CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	<b>Manila-Saipan</b> CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
<b>Saipan-Seoul</b> OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	<b>Seoul-Saipan</b> OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b> OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7	<b>Busan-Saipan</b> OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Saipan-Guanzhou</b> CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	<b>Guanzhou-Saipan</b> CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
<b>Saipan-Shanghai</b> MU 590 4:20am 7:00am 2,6	<b>Shanghai-Saipan</b> MU 589 8:05pm 3:00am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Manila</b> CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	<b>Manila-Guam</b> CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
<b>Guam-Hongkong</b> CO 909 6:50pm 9:35pm 1,5	<b>Hongkong-Guam</b> CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Rota</b> CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	<b>Rota-Guam</b> CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



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# Good Housekeeping

## Born of a little trash talk

By BETTIJANE LEVINE  
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Walk into any housewares store and you'll probably see cool, colorful trash baskets in dozens of shapes and sizes.

What their tags don't reveal is how these once-homely utilitarian objects were transformed into emblems of modern design, or how one sexy little number named Garbo started it all, surprising skeptics with sales of 7 million. "We could never have planned for such success," says Paul Rowan, co-founder of Umbra, which makes the Garbo. "We just wanted to produce a better-looking basket, something not as ugly as everything else around."

What was around back then in 1994, remembers Karim Rashid, who designed the Garbo, "was a ubiquitous rectangular black plastic can with absolutely no character"—and few low-cost alternatives. Adds Rowan: "Wastebaskets at the time were clunky plastic, most with thick ribs down the sides that allowed them to be stacked. People tended to hide them in their homes. They weren't attractive enough to be on display."

Rowan asked Rashid to study the market and come up with some thoughts.

"I did at least 50 renderings

of receptacles," Rashid says. "I felt that banal objects need life, they need presence, they need to make unpleasant tasks more pleasant. I immediately thought about a more sensual object than we've had before, one that is seductively round, wider at the top than at the bottom so that it seems to undulate. Something with a wide, beautiful, inviting mouth to gracefully accept waste."

He designed that mouth with handles placed higher than the receptacle's lip.

"A person lifting this basket, even when it's full, would never come in contact with its contents," Rashid says.

He also designed a rounded bottom that prevents liquids or sticky waste from accumulating in the corners.

Rashid named the basket Garbo, he says, as a play on the word "garbage" and an allusion to the film world's enduring glamour girls, who had all the curves his basket was to emulate.

Rowan says the design was not an immediate hit at the Toronto-based offices of Umbra. The piece had its skeptics.

"We were kind of reinventing an object," Rowan says. "It was such an unusual shape, and it would be so costly to make the molds, with no idea whether the things would sell."

Rashid also suggested that the baskets should be translucent, which Rowan says was too out-



Umbra's Garbino and Garbini, in assorted colors.  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

there for some. "Who wants to see their own trash?" we were constantly asked."

Even after Umbra made the first models, company officials couldn't decide if they were beautiful or not.

"It looks familiar to you now because it has become generic, but when we first did this, no

one had done anything like it before," Rowan says. "Some people said it looked like a body cast. That really scared us. You have to have guts for something like this."

The first Garbos went into stores in 1996. Two million sold quickly, Rowan says, and it became apparent that small-

er models would sell even better for confined spaces such as bathrooms and home offices. So Rashid came up with smaller versions, Garbinos and Garbinis, which still are sold at Bed, Bath & Beyond, the Container Store and other spots around the world.

The design also is in the permanent collection of New York's Museum of Modern Art.

"We have 11 of them, stacked, in different colors. They look great that way," says Christian Larsen, a curatorial assistant in the department of architecture and design. Their sinuous shapes, the economy of material and the humble, mass-produced quality of a fine design is something the museum celebrates, Larsen says.

Hundreds of manufacturers have attempted imitations, but the genius of the design is that it's impossible to copy exactly without running afoul of the law, Rowan says. The elements of shape are so unique and so accurately described in the patent that "it's become a case study for attorneys," he says.

Rashid, now world-famous for thousands of well-received home furnishings, still exudes a proud papa's fondness for his Garbo. "I gave them a certain lightness, an ephemeral quality," he says. "I wanted them to seem to float, to de-stress a space with their simplicity and color. That I succeeded still makes me glad."

## Dry vs wet basements

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA  
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

**Q:** I've been searching for an apartment in an area where a lot of old homes are split into apartments, and I hear agents and landlords refer to their basements as either "dry" basements or "wet" basements. What exactly do those terms mean?—Trudy C., Worcester, Mass.

**A:** "Dry" vs. "wet" are, in general, quick references to whether a home's basement has been sealed against water seepage, leaks and condensation—or not. Many of the Northeast's turn-of-the-century houses have what might lightly be called "wet" basements because they were not designed to keep dampness out completely. Some have plain dirt floors or, at best, wooden planks overlaying the earth beneath it.

Even recently built homes can have "wet" or unsealed basements. The kind of soil in which a basement is set and the level of an area's water table can determine whether a basement will tend toward "wet" or "dry"—or if a basement can even be built at all. (For example, most homes in Florida do not have basements because of the soil—hard limestone—and a high water table.)

Today's homes are supposed to be built with drains that move water away from the foundation and basement walls. But many drains are not properly installed or inadequate, leaving homeowners with a damp basement and, in some cases, one that even floods in heavy rains, forcing them to keep appliances set above the floor. These are basements that one goes into only out of necessity.

A "dry" basement is well-sealed and has drains that move water well away from the walls and floor. Leaks and flooding are rarely a problem. Because most basements have a significant amount of square footage, the dry basement is the most desirable. A well-sealed, well-drained basement can be fitted out into a living space with Sheetrock walls, carpeting or tile.

**HOME TIP:** Homeowners with leaky or damp basements should consult a construction or basement specialist about ways to improve water drainage from walls set below ground.

Send questions or home-repair tips to [homeguru2000@hotmail.com](mailto:homeguru2000@hotmail.com), or write *This Is a Hammer*, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.



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**KITCHEN MAGIC**

# Italian Tuna and White Bean Salad

Packed with protein, this tuna-topped salad is appropriate for lunch or dinner. Serve with a warm, flaky baguette to round out the meal.

**PREP:** 20 minutes  
**TOTAL:** 20 minutes  
**MAKES:** 4 servings

1 lemon  
1 can (6 ounces) solid white tuna in water, drained  
1 can (15 to 19 ounces) white kidney beans (cannellini), rinsed and drained  
1 medium tomato  
1/2 fennel bulb (about 1 1/4 cups), cored and chopped  
2 tablespoons red onion, chopped  
2 tablespoons kalamata olives, chopped  
2 teaspoons fresh rosemary leaves, finely chopped  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
Salt  
1 bag mixed greens

1. From lemon, grate 1 teaspoon peel and squeeze 2 tablespoons juice; place in medium bowl.

2. With fork, flake tuna into bowl with lemon. Add beans, tomato, fennel, onion, olives, rosemary, oil and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Toss to mix well. (Tuna salad can be made ahead up to 6 hours; refrigerate, covered.)

3. To serve, divide greens among 4 dinner plates; top each with tuna salad.

**Pasta e Piselli**

Our fastest soup—just 10 minutes to prepare, 15 minutes to cook. Cousin to the Italian favorite Pasta e Fagioli (pasta and beans), this is made with peas instead. Dust with freshly grated Parmesan for an irresistible touch.

2 cups (about 8 ounces) mixed pasta shapes or elbow macaroni  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
3 cloves garlic, crushed with side of chef's knife  
2 cans (14 1/2-ounce) chicken broth, or 3 1/2 cups homemade chicken broth, per recipe  
1 can (14 1/2-ounce) diced tomatoes  
1/4 cup (packed) fresh basil leaves, coarsely chopped  
1 package (10-ounce) frozen peas, thawed  
Grated Parmesan cheese (optional)

1. Cook pasta as label directs in boiling salted water; drain.

2. Meanwhile, in 4-quart saucepan or saucepot, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add garlic; cook until golden, about 5 minutes.

3. Remove saucepan from heat. Then, carefully add chicken broth, tomatoes with their juice, basil and 1/2 cup water. Return to heat; heat to boiling. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 5 minutes; discard garlic.

4. Add peas and pasta; heat through. Serve soup with grated Parmesan cheese if you like. Serves 5.

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# Bathe your walls in light



THE WASHINGTON POST

Hubbardton Forge's Vista Triple sconce with glass bowls retails for \$658. Sconces can serve as primarily functional objects, or they can create a dramatic focal point in a room.

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER  
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Sconces, light fixtures attached to the wall midway between floor and ceiling, can serve as primarily functional objects, or they can create a dramatic focal point in a room.

"Sconces lend a very immediate sense of elegance to a space," said Joe Rey-Barreau, an architect and associate professor of interior design at the University of Kentucky. They create "a very soft and comforting light."

Sconces are available in a range of sizes, to match the scale of a room. The average indoor sconce is about 12 inches tall, according to the American Lighting Association, but some are as long as 30 inches.

Traditional brass sconces are still popular, but other finishes have also gained footholds, including nickel, pewter, painted metal and hand-forged steel. More modern styles emphasize simple lines and shapes. Some are designed to tolerate dampness, such as in bathrooms, or even work outdoors. They are frequently installed in groups of two or three.

"In a better sconce, the detail will be there once you start to really look at it," said Jerry Hopp, a certified lighting consultant who handles custom sales for Annapolis Lighting in Maryland. In less-expensive models, the metal is thinner and not as many finishes are available.

More-expensive models are built with replaceable parts, extending their life, Hopp said. Even the hardware may be different. "A better sconce will have a better socket, maybe take a 100-watt bulb."



This sconce from Justice Design Group's Sun Dagger collection works indoors and out, and retails for \$250.

THE WASHINGTON POST

If you're looking to wash your walls in light, here's what you can get for your money.

**The Bargain**

If your budget is less than \$50, consider a simple sconce from the

Hampton Bay line at Home Depot. A one-light wall sconce in a weathered oak finish with Scavo glass retails for about \$40.

**The Basics**

If your budget allows you to spend \$50 to \$200, you'll have a much larger choice of styles, finishes and manufacturers. "Consumers should be able to find a good wall sconce for no more than \$150," Rey-Barreau said.

One option in this range is Justice Design Group's Veneto Luce collection, finished with Venetian glass and white nickel, which retails for about \$200.

**The Upgrade**

For \$200 to \$500, consumers can find distinctive designs, durable enough to function outdoors. One option is a cylinder-shaped sconce made of ceramic from Justice Design's Sun Dagger collection. This sconce retails for about \$250.

**The Splurge**

Those willing to spend \$500 or more on a sconce can find one-of-a-kind products, said Rey-Barreau, who is also the educational consultant for the American Lighting Association.

One possibility would be hand-made pieces, such as those made by Hubbardton Forge in Castleton, Vt. Hubbardton's Vista Triple three-light sconce, which retails for about \$650, is reversible for up or down light and available in several finishes.

# Gardening Q&A: rhubarb, roots

By SCOTT AKER  
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

**Q. I planted a couple of rhubarb plants last year, and they have grown well, but the stems remain green, not red. Is there anything I can do to produce red stems?**

**A.** Your rhubarb may be refusing to turn red for a few reasons. One may be the variety. Some rhubarb varieties have redder stalks (technically petioles) than others. Canada Red is one of the reddest varieties. Victoria is more common and has green stalks flecked with pink, but is more productive than most.

The red coloration is due to pigments called anthocyanins that are formed in the leaf stalks. Anthocyanins form only in cool temperatures and abundant sunlight. If your rhubarb is growing in

any shade or if spring temperatures are warm, the full potential of red color may not develop. We are near the southern limits of where rhubarb can be easily grown, and it usually does not grow as red here as it does farther north.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

**Q. We recently removed some surface roots of oak trees to create a path around the house. Is there anything we can do to mitigate the damage? These trees are valuable for the shade they cast on the house.**

**A.** It sounds as if the damage has already been done. The time to mitigate the harm is before and during the construction, not after it is completed.

If you have to build a path where there are large tree roots, you should excavate the area by hand rather than use a machine that will inevitably damage and

sever roots. After excavation by hand, you can lay the gravel or stone dust that is to be compacted to form a stable base for the walkway. By working around the larger roots, you preserve the link between the tree trunk and all the feeder roots that are covering the broad area on the other side of the sidewalk.

You should also plan to prevent future root growth from heaving the walk. One effective method is to bridge the area over the roots. Often this can be done by compacting the base in the spaces between roots and using uncompacted gravel on top of the roots. If the concrete is properly reinforced, it will bridge the uncompacted zones without cracking or interfering with the roots.

Thicker roots may require more of a span and a more elaborate system. If this is the case, put in a footing on either side of the root and bridge it by using chim-

ney flue tiles cut to form an arch. All this will increase the expense of installation but will preserve the tree and prevent or slow any heaving of the walkway.

The extent of the root damage to your oaks as well as the soil compaction stemming from the construction may determine the future of those trees. Give the areas beneath the trees a light mulching of compost and the occasional deep soaking in times of prolonged drought. A procedure called vertical mulching may help reverse the effects of compaction. Use an auger to drill holes 10 to 12 inches deep, spaced 24 inches apart in a grid pattern beneath the tree to the drip line. Backfill with a mixture of compost and pea gravel, and give the trees a good drink afterward.

Scott Aker is a horticulturist at the U.S. National Arboretum.



# The Good Life

## More than one baby calls for more household planning, flexibility

By **TERRI SAPIENZA**  
© 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

**WASHINGTON**—An organizer by nature and profession, Rachel Rosenthal Strisik's impulse toward order hit full throttle when she learned she was pregnant with twins.

Right away she sought out a local support group and started networking with mothers who had twins or triplets. At her suburban Bethesda, Md., home, she created folders for medical bills and parenting articles. She set up areas upstairs and down to diaper and dress the babies. She baked and froze lasagnas and chicken casseroles for those days when she was sure to be too harried for cooking.

Her operating theory: "You need to bring order to the chaos before it happens."

For most parents, hearing that they are having multiples is "joy mixed with terror mixed with moments of calm," says Patricia Malmstrom, co-author of "The Art of Parenting Twins" and director of Twin Services Consulting, a support Web site for parents with multiples. After absorbing the news, Malmstrom says, many parents-to-be find themselves "scrambling to find balance in the midst of a very unstable feeling."

Much of that scrambling centers on how to keep a household running smoothly—or just running—with two, three or more babies crying at once.

Multiple births are increasingly common in this country. Between 1980 and 2005, the rate of twin births almost doubled, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. Triplet and higher-order multiple births more than quadrupled. Experts say the jump can be attributed to more women delaying childbirth: After age 35, women have an increased chance of conceiving multiples, especially if they are undergoing fertility therapies.

This trend complicates matters on the home front: Women expecting multiples are often confined to bed before delivery and may have a longer recovery



THE WASHINGTON POST

Rachel Rosenthal Strisik, of Bethesda, Md., sought out a local support group and started networking with other mothers of multiples before the arrival of twins Marin, left, and Ellie in January. "You need to bring order to the chaos before it happens," she says.

### Help out with the triplets

By **TERRI SAPIENZA**  
© 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Do you know someone with multiples? Here are things you can do to help them:

- Instead of buying a traditional baby gift, an offer to help organize the nursery before the babies arrive is much appreciated.
- Before the babies arrive, stop by with a frozen dinner or a pack of

diapers and wipes in-hand. The more practical the gift, the better.

- If you know another family with multiples, introduce them and exchange contact information.
- Organize a family/neighborhood/office meal schedule for a few weeks so meals are one less thing for the exhausted new parents to worry about.
- When the time is right, an offer to baby-sit for a few hours could be more welcome than anything.

ery afterward, which can add to a general unraveling of housekeeping.

Rosenthal Strisik, 30, runs Rosey's Urban Style, a personal organizing and shopping service, so she was already skilled at planning. And since the arrival of identical twins Ellie and Marin in January—the first children for Rosenthal Strisik and her husband, Marshall Strisik Schattner—she says she has also learned to be flexible. Because her girls are different weights and require different amounts of food, she started labeling bottles with their initials. She keeps Ellie on the left and Marin on the right during feedings, naps and playtime so friends and relatives can tell who's who.

"Get your systems in place as early as possible," she says. "But know that the babies will change your system. Things are constantly changing."

Annie Elliott, 37, is a Washington designer and first-time mother of 3-year-old twin girls. When she learned she was expecting, she put up plenty of open shelving in the nursery and hung a clear plastic shoe holder on the wall next to the changing table so onesies and wipes were nearby and visible. "You have to have everything at your fingertips," she says. "Wrestling a baby in and out of clothing is more stressful when you have another baby crying."

She devoted an entire shelf—not just a charming little basket—to diapers.

### VOICES OF EXPERIENCE

- Contact your health insurance company. Let them know you're expecting multiples to avoid confusion after the births.
- Get a second freezer. Stock it with pre-made frozen meals.
- Stock up on burp cloths. Many multiples have acid reflux. Cloth diapers work well.
- If breast-feeding, invest in a hospital-grade, hands-free pump. It will enable you to multi-task.
- If using formula, have a good blender on hand. That will make it much faster and easier when preparing several batches at once.
- Use zipper plastic storage bags. They can be handy for keeping each child's items (pacifiers, medicine, a change of clothes) separate inside a diaper bag. Color-coded bags make things even easier.
- Set up sleeping and changing stations in rooms where you'll be spending a lot of time. At least set up one on each floor. Keep all necessary

supplies within arm's reach.

■ Visit a family that has multiple infants. It will give you some idea of what to expect.

■ Make friends with parents of multiples. Talking to someone who is or has been in the same situation can be very comforting.

■ Find a local multiples club and see what resources it offers. Some may offer advice on area doctors, group meetings and consignment sales, or even a stock of newborn clothing for borrowing.

■ Line up help. You're going to need it. If people offer help, "get them signed up on a schedule before the babies are born," says Jane Herschelman, mother of triplets. "Don't say you'll call them when the babies are born, because you don't have time to think, to call or the memory of what they said they'd do."

■ Get a larger-than-normal laundry basket.

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### MULTIPLE RESOURCES

- National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs: [www.nomotc.org](http://www.nomotc.org)
- Twinslist: [www.twinslist.org](http://www.twinslist.org)
- Twinsight: [www.twinsight.com](http://www.twinsight.com)
- Mothers of Supertwins: [www.mostonline.org](http://www.mostonline.org)
- Triplet Connection: [www.tripletconnection.org](http://www.tripletconnection.org)
- Center for the Study of Multiple Birth: [www.multiplebirth.com](http://www.multiplebirth.com)
- Twin Services Consulting: [www.twinservices.org](http://www.twinservices.org)
- Twins Magazine: [www.twinsmagazine.com](http://www.twinsmagazine.com)
- 1-800-DIAPERS: [www.diapers.com](http://www.diapers.com)
- Online freebies: [www.storknet.com/cubbies/freebies/twins.htm](http://www.storknet.com/cubbies/freebies/twins.htm)

© 2008, The Washington Post

("Really stock up. You won't believe how fast you go through things.") And she color-coded the girls' clothing to help others tell them apart: red for Ruthie, green for Georgie.

Becky DeStefanis, 34, and John Spirtas, 33, parents of 2-year-old triplets, have some counterintuitive advice for couples expecting multiples: Resist the impulse to move to a bigger house right away.

DeStefanis and Spirtas, who live in a small suburban Cape Cod, say it's easier to monitor children in a smaller space, where there are fewer places for them to get hurt in. "And when things get lost, there are only a few rooms where they can be," DeStefanis says.

When the triplets were newborns, the couple put a mini-fridge and crockpot filled with water in the upstairs nursery so they could easily warm bottles in the middle of the night. They created a chart to track when each baby was changed, and when and how much they ate. "It's easy to forget who's doing what when," DeStefanis says.

To contain daytime activities to the first floor, the couple turned the den into a nap room when Ben, Ella and Marie were infants. A little-used end of the kitchen became a changing and dressing area, and the dining room became a playroom, complete with bright-colored rubber floor mats to cushion unsteady toddlers.

They also put a clear plastic shoe holder to clever use: They hung one on a kitchen door to store bottles and, eventually, sippy cups. "Everything is about ease of use, seeing what you need and getting to things quickly," Spirtas says. "Especially in the beginning, be-

cause you're asleep all the time."

Parker Rea, 33, and her husband, James, 37, are expecting twin boys in June. They plan to stay in their Washington townhouse for the time being. Though space will be tighter, they've decided to rearrange things rather than move.

"Right now we're looking at our space and thinking about how to make it more efficient," Parker says. Bulky antiques will be put in storage and replaced with smaller, less precious storage pieces, and the boys will share a room with two small-scale cribs. "I think it's about getting creative about how you're going to make it work."

Another good piece of advice: Avoid buying too much baby gear. Kate Hood, 35, a suburban mother of 1-year-old twins and a 3-year-old, says it's a mistake to think that a home with multiples needs multiple swings and multiple bouncy seats.

"Two babies does not automatically mean two of everything," she wrote in an e-mail. "And the gear will take over your house regardless, so try to keep it as minimal as possible." Try borrowing baby gear before purchasing it, several parents advised. Some babies are lulled by motorized swings, and some aren't; some delight in doorway jumpers, and some don't. If possible, try before buying one, two or three of anything.

And though part of the fun of having a baby is designing and dressing the new nursery, getting caught up in the decor may not prove to be the most productive distraction. Take it from a design expert. "If you worry about every small decorating detail, you'll go crazy," Elliott says. "Take that time and energy and go buy diapers."

### Bringing Up Babies

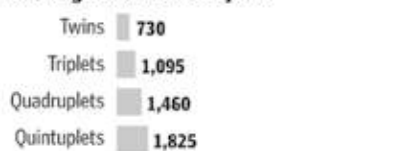
Number of wipes used in one year:



Number of diapers changed in one year:



Goodnight kisses in one year:



SOURCE: Maureen Doolan-Boyle, Executive Director of MOST (Mothers of Supertwins)



# Bob Weber Jr.'s Slylock Fox and COMICS for KIDS

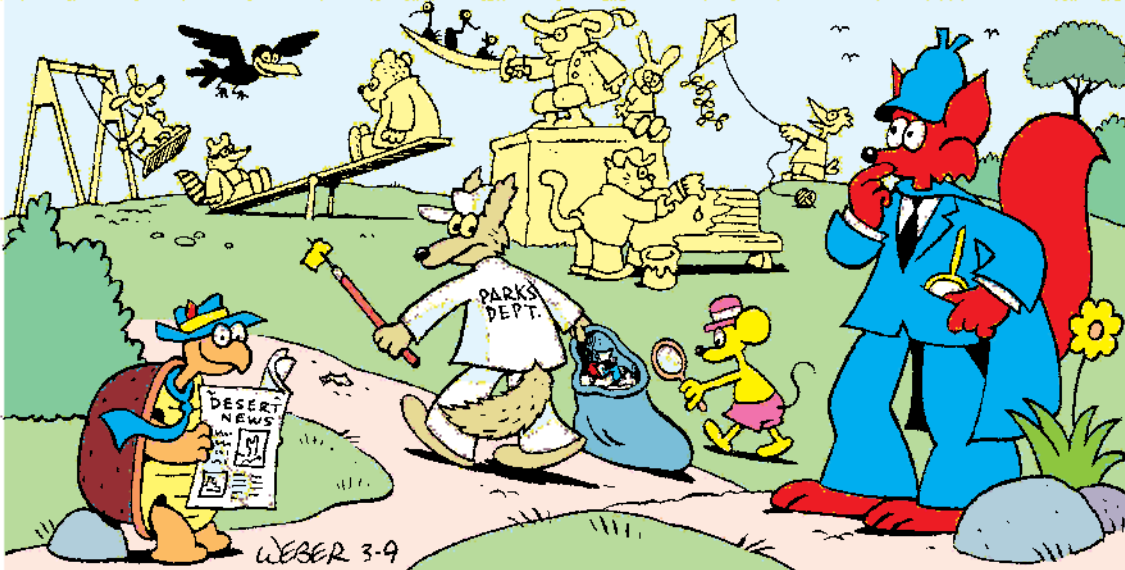
Which two scenes are exactly alike?



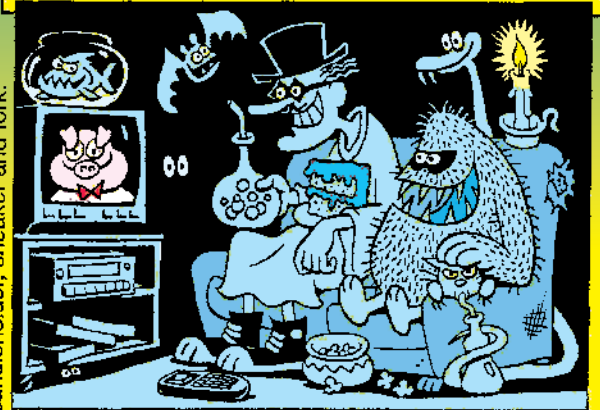
Answer -- Numbers one and four.

Someone stole gold coins from a museum near the park. No one saw the thief take the coins, so there isn't a description of the robber. Slylock Fox suspects one of the creatures in the park is the thief. Which one?

Solution -- The raccoon on the ground. Unless he was carrying something heavy, the heavier he was, the heavier he couldn't hold the coins in his clothes. Since gold is one of the heaviest metals, Slylock suspects the raccoon is the thief and has hidden the coins in his clothes.



Find six differences between these panels.



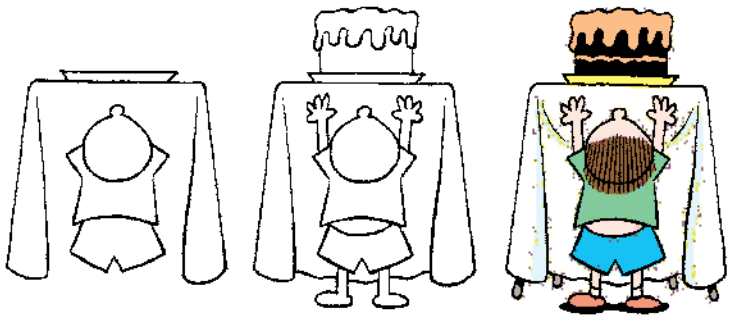
www.kidcartoonists.com



Answer -- Popcorn, fish, monster's tooth, candleholder, sneaker and fork.

New! The fourth Find the six differences collection is here. Send \$4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to Six Differences No. 4, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

HOW TO DRAW a boy hungry for cake



YOUR DRAWING

Today's artist is Christine Kolb, age 11, of Houston, TX



You can submit and see many more wonderful and creative kid drawings online at [www.kidcartoonists.com](http://www.kidcartoonists.com)

New York City's famous Central Park covers ...

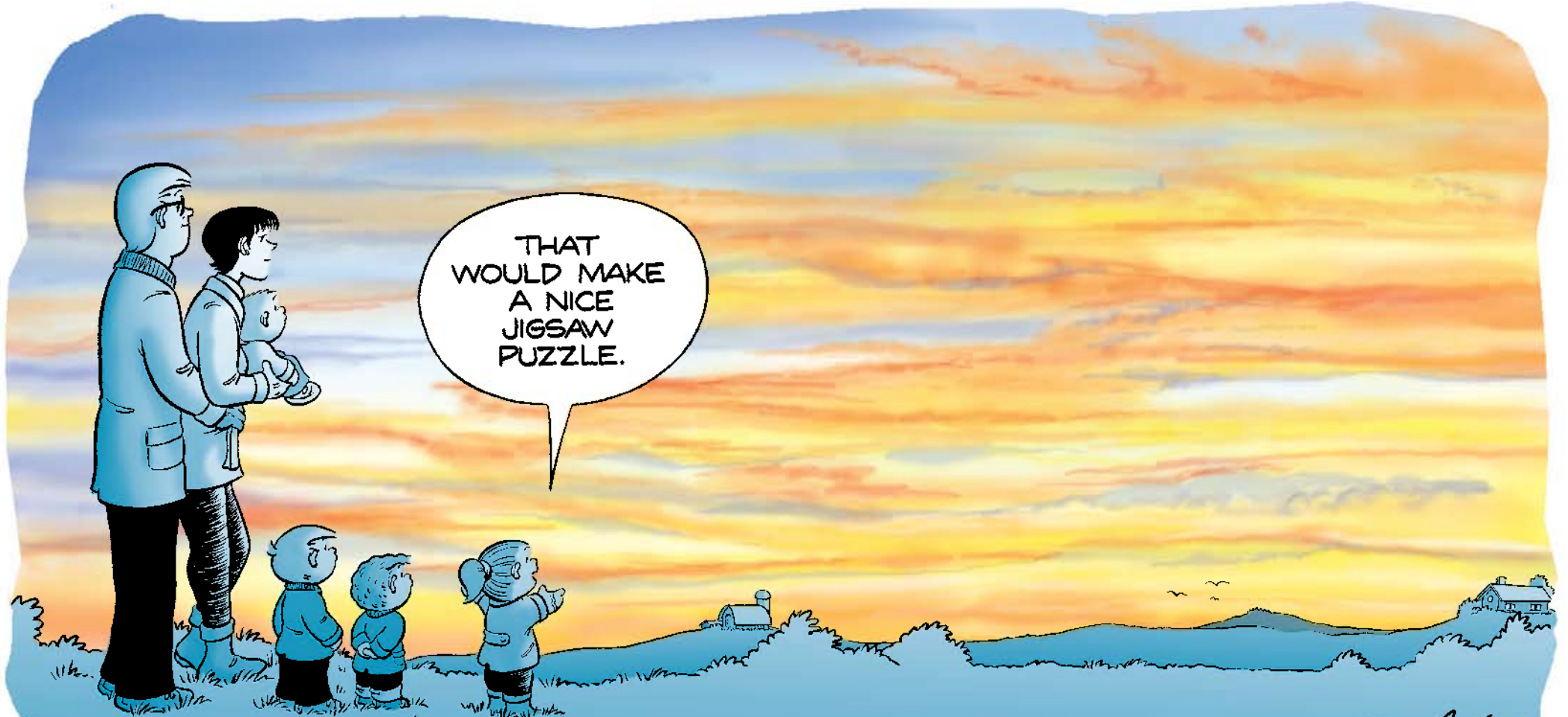
- a) 50 acres
- b) 250 acres
- c) 685 acres
- d) 843 acres

Answer -- d

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## THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bil Keane



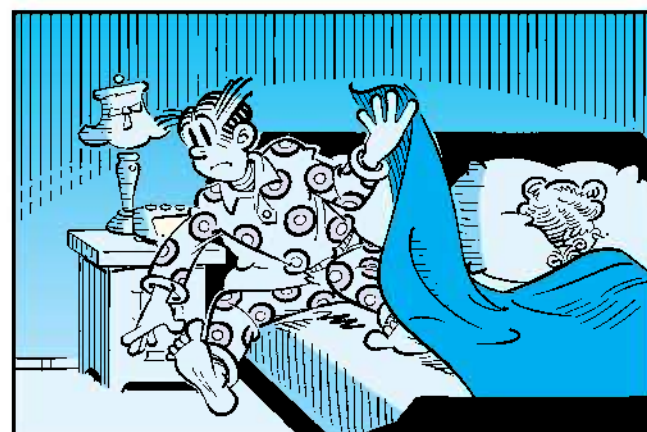
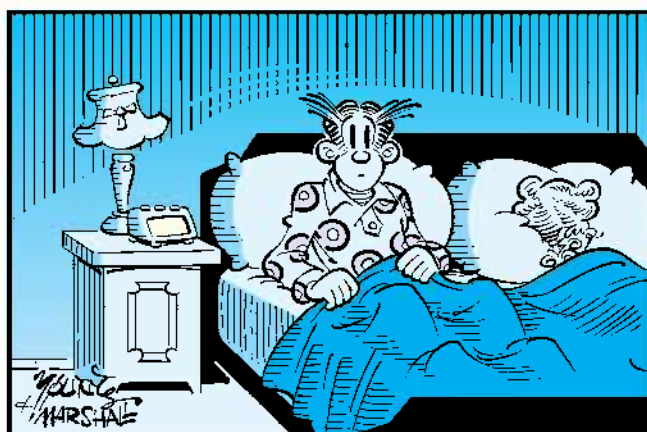
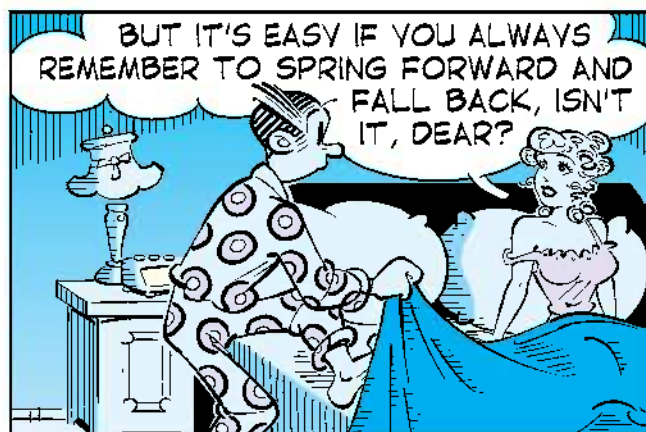
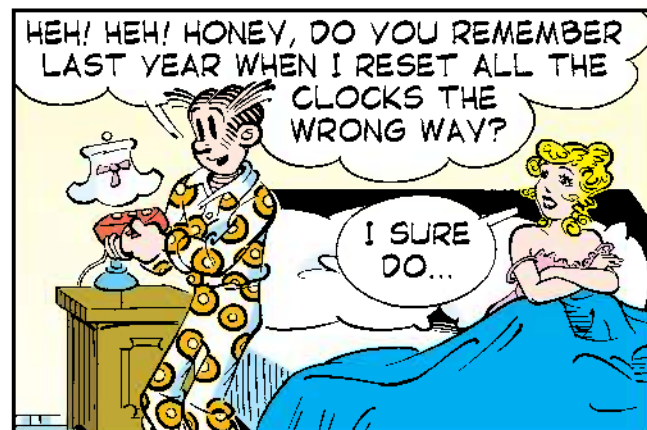
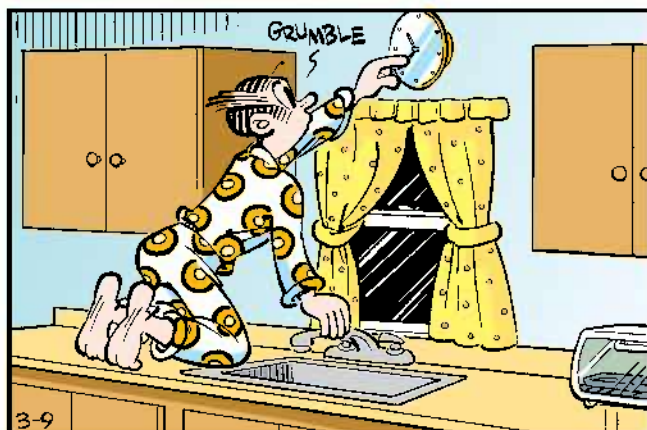
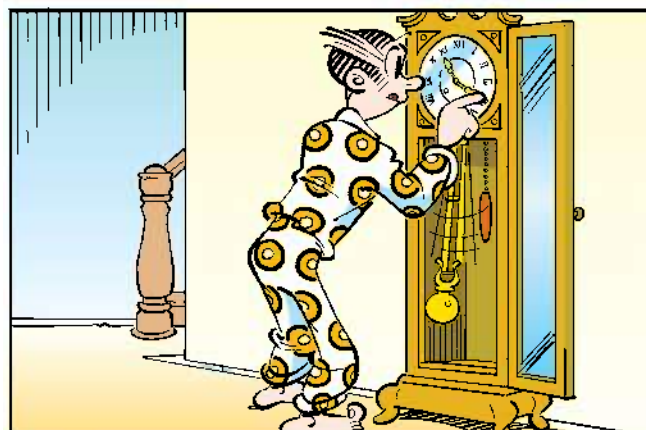
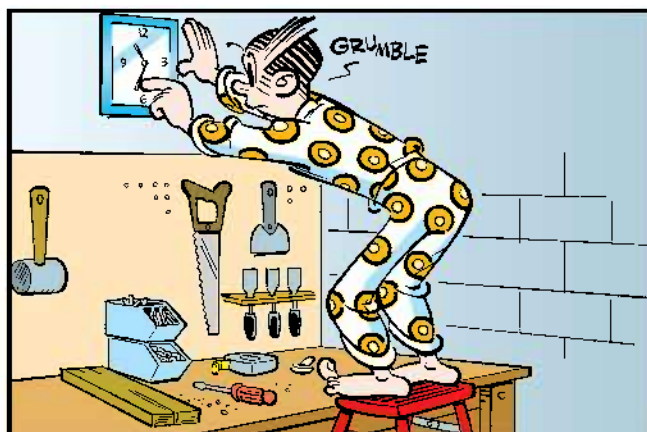
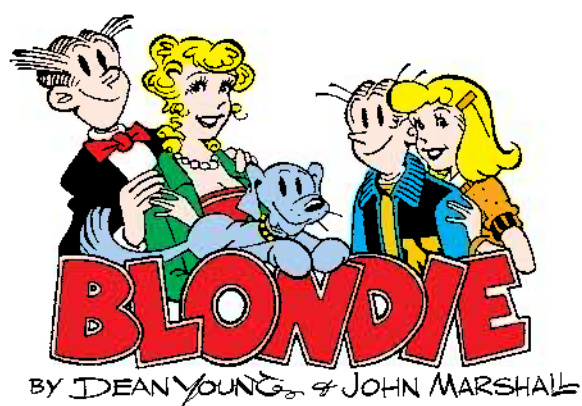
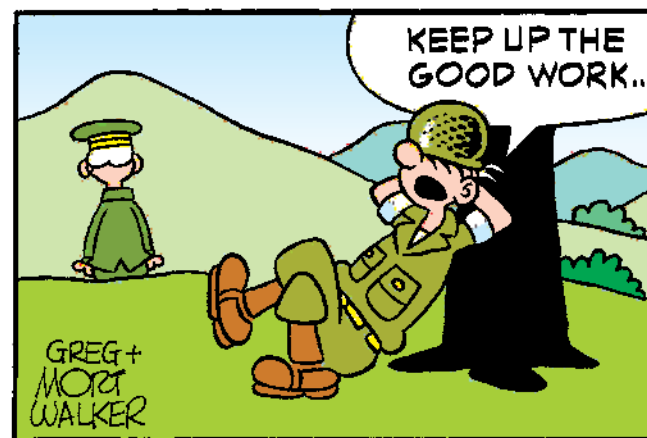
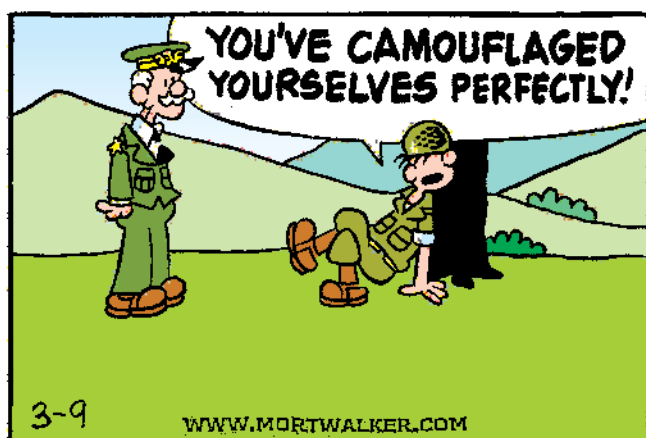
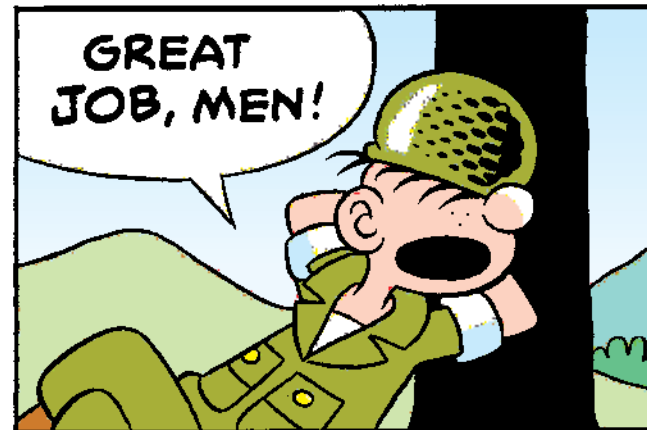
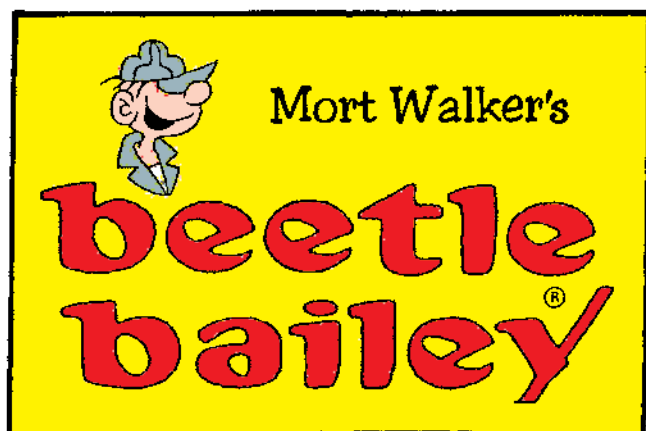
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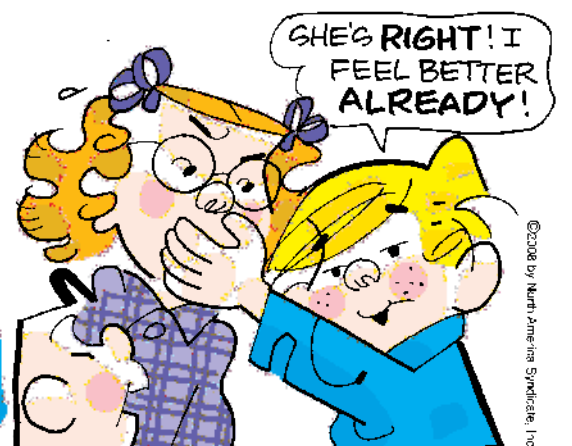
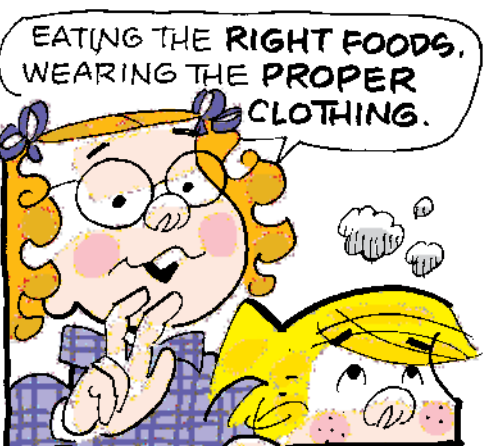
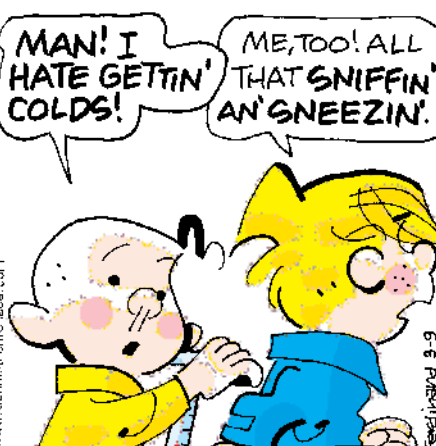
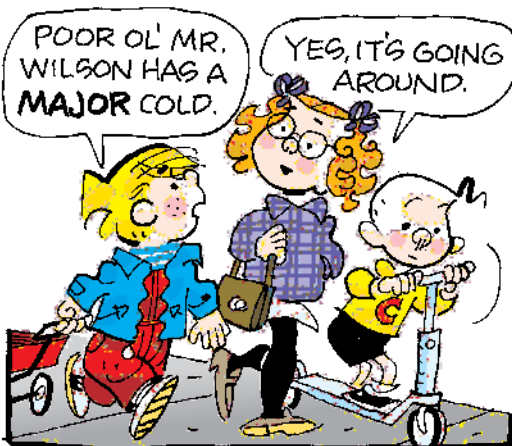
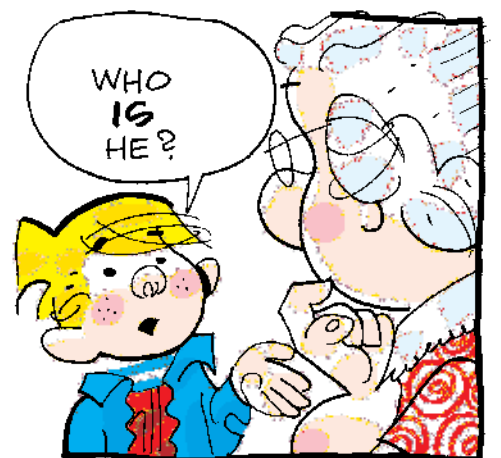
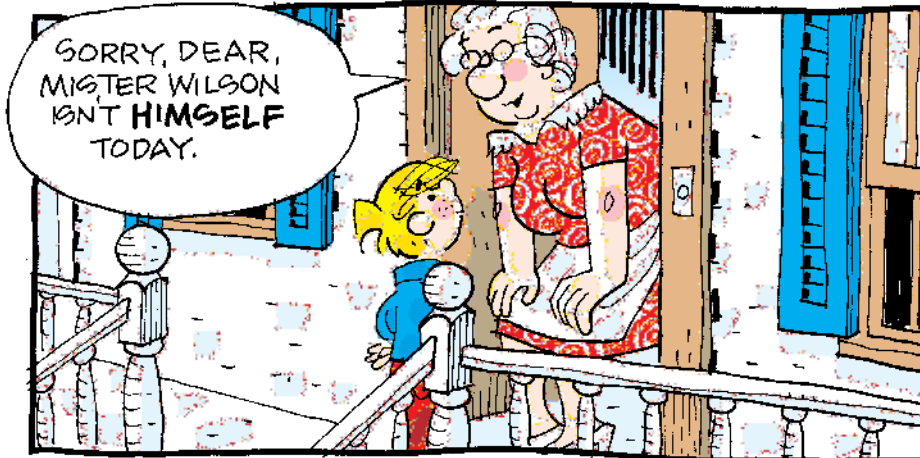
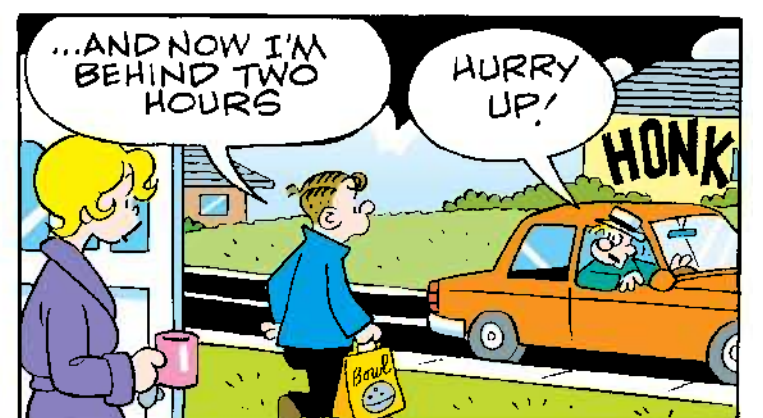
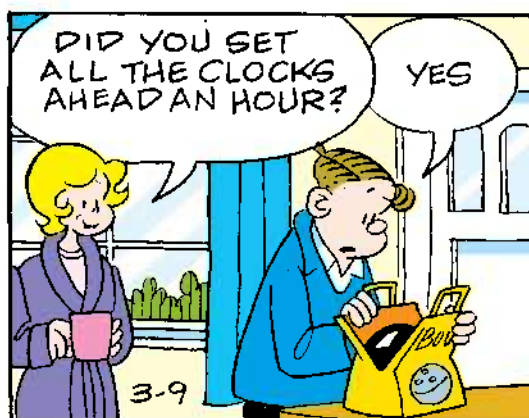
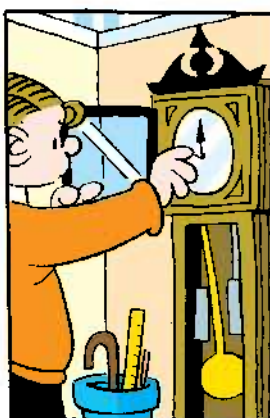
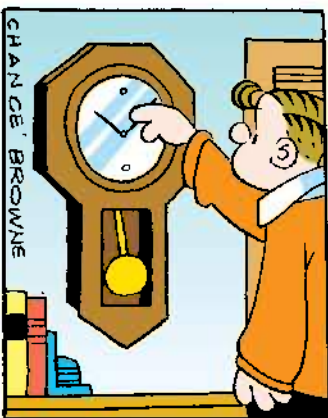
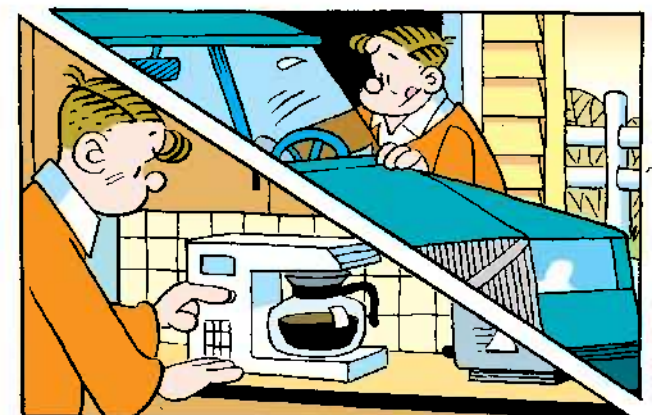
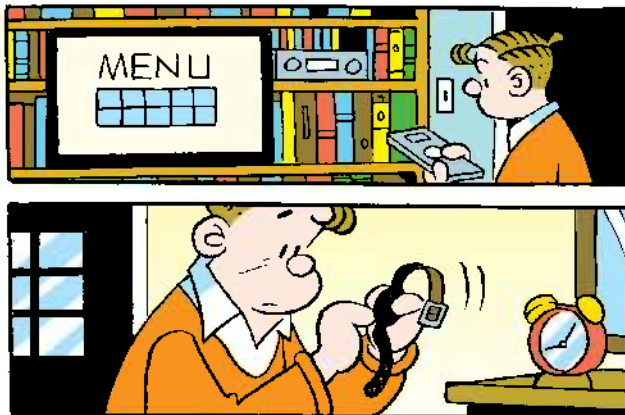
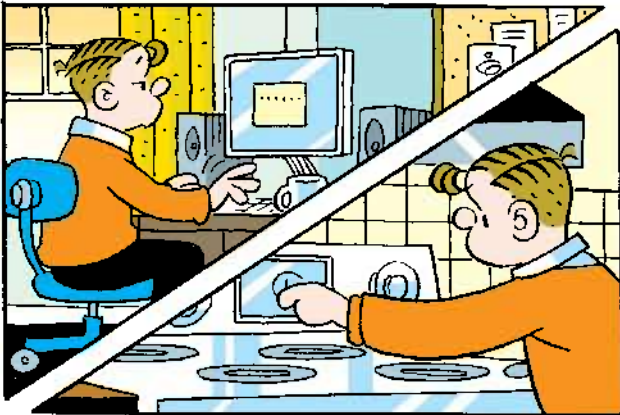
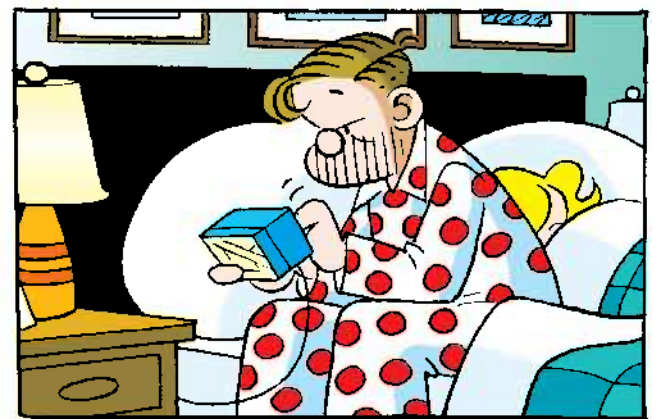
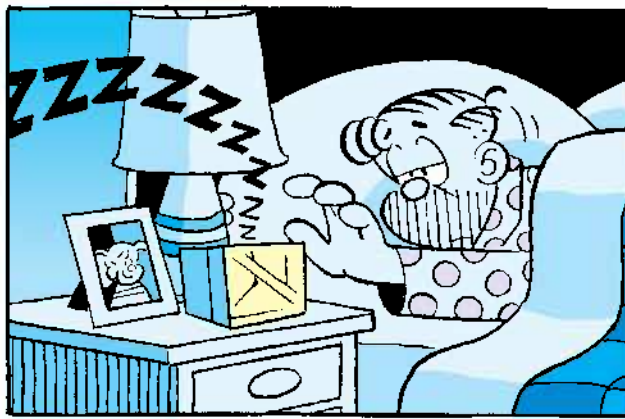
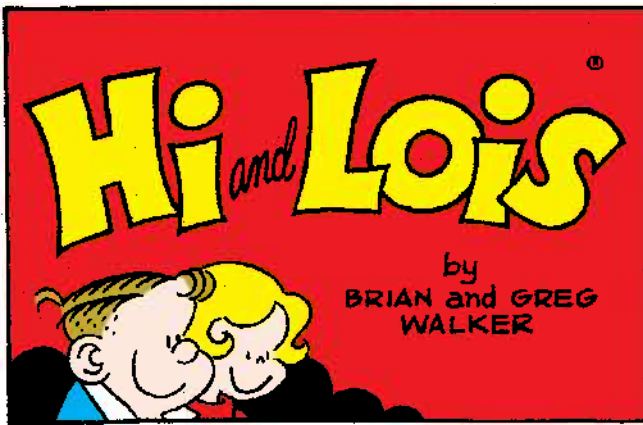
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JEFF and Bil KEANE





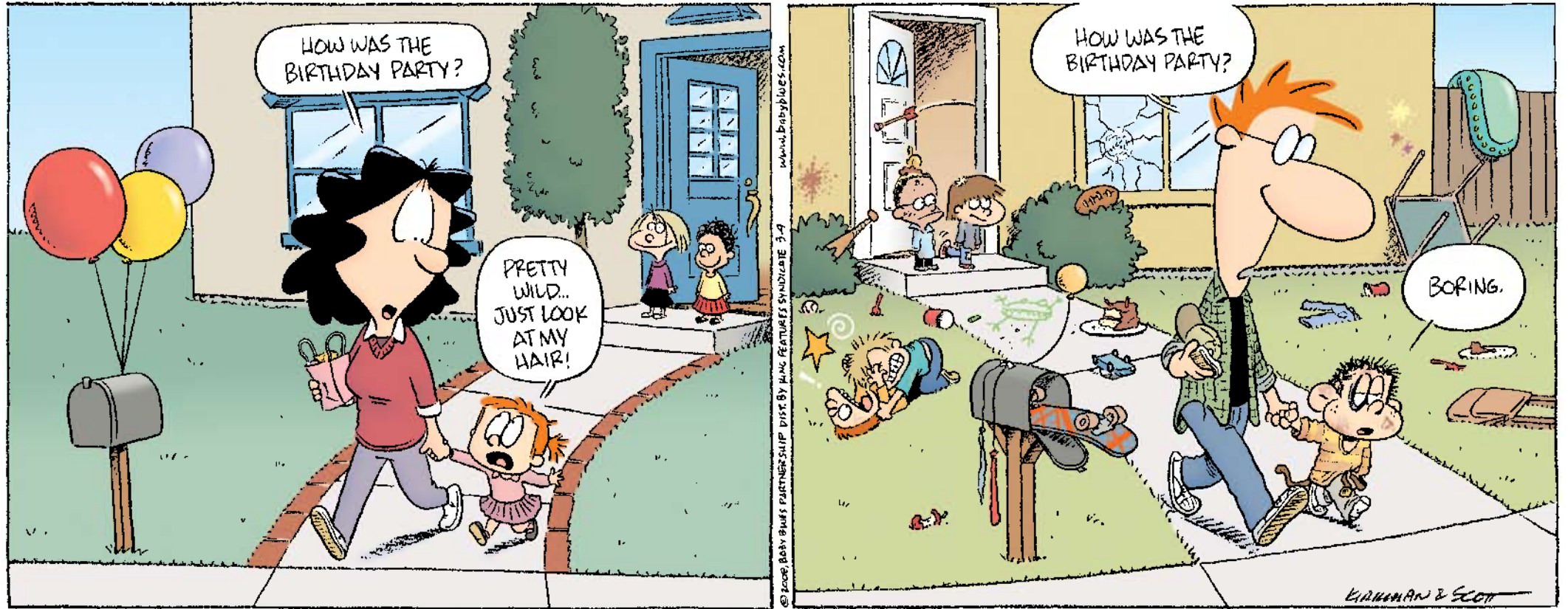






# BABY BLUES™

BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT



## Same family. Different species.

### Salome's Stars

- ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Your soft-hearted self is drawn to a tempting offer. But your hard-headed half isn't so sure. Best advice: Do it only after every detail is checked out to your liking.
- TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Your inventive mind should help you find a way to get around an apparently impassable barrier and make yourself heard. Your efforts get you noticed by the right people.
- GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) You're enjoying this creative period. But by midweek, you'll need to emphasize your more pragmatic talents as you consider a risky but potentially lucrative move.
- CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) An unexpected rejection could turn into something positive if you pocket your pride and ask for advice on how you can make changes that will make the difference.
- LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Your Lion's heart gives you the courage to push for answers to a job-related situation. Stay with it. You'll soon find more believers coming out the ranks of the doubters.
- VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Your curiosity pays off this week as you push past the gossip to find the facts. What you ultimately discover could lead you to make some changes in your plans.

- LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) A new sense of enthusiasm helps get you out of on-the-job doldrums and back into a productive phase. Family matters also benefit from your more positive attitude.
- SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) A bit of nostalgia is fine. But don't stay back in the past too long or you might miss seeing the signpost up ahead pointing the way to a new opportunity.
- SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) If you feel you need to take more time to study a situation before making a decision, do so. Don't let anyone push you into acting until you're ready.
- CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) As the Great Advice Giver, the Goat really shines this week as family and friends seek your wisdom. Someone especially close to you might make a surprising request.
- AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Spiritual concerns dominate part of the week before more worldly matters demand your attention. An old promise resurfaces with some surprises attached.
- PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) You're in a highly productive period and are eager to finish all the projects you've taken on. But don't let yourself get swamped. Take a breather now and again.
- BORN THIS WEEK:** You have a gift for learning new things quickly and applying your knowledge to best advantage where needed.

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### King Crossword

#### ACROSS

- 1 Not at all
- 6 Unruly hairdo
- 9 Frivolous one of song
- 12 Phantom's domain
- 13 Parisian pal
- 14 Spy novel org.
- 15 Eye doctor's subjects
- 16 Huge sandwich eponym
- 18 Marvel
- 20 Ship's framework
- 21 Faraway craft
- 23 "Hazel" cartoonist
- 24 High nest
- 25 Aerobic maneuver
- 27 Aristocratic
- 29 Caterina de'
- 31 Former Houston team
- 35 Detroit dud
- 37 Pivot
- 38 Racing shell
- 41 Greek consonants
- 43 Kitten's remark
- 44 As well
- 45 Give
- 47 Kansas city
- 49 Concerning
- 52 Droop
- 53 Newton filler
- 54 Bullwinkle is

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
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52				53			54			
55				56			57			

- one
- 55 Noshed
- 56 Pub brew
- 57 Go by bike
- 10 Garlic mayonnaise
- 11 Punch-bowl accessory
- 17 Transportation, slangily
- 19 Jeans material
- 21 Einstein's birthplace
- 22 Adversary
- 24 Actress Larter
- 26 It's higher when the head is removed
- 28 Paycheck extra
- 30 Animation frame
- 32 - Park, Illinois
- 33 Regret
- 34 Stitch
- 36 Tense
- 38 Burrito enhancer
- 39 Sports-shoe attachment
- 40 Grammarian's concern
- 42 Philatelist's prize
- 45 Seethe
- 46 Reed instrument
- 48 Son-gun link
- 50 "Born in the -"
- 51 Part of AT&T

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### top ten

1. World Data Centre for Climate
2. NERSC (Berkeley)
3. AT&T
4. Google
5. Sprint
6. ChoicePoint
7. YouTube
8. Amazon
9. CIA
10. Library of Congress

Source: Business Intelligence Lowdown

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#### KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

A	P	T	R	E	F	J	A	B	B	A
L	O	U	U	K	E	A	L	O	U	D
I	L	L	T	E	D	D	Y	B	O	Y
B	A	S	H	O	U	R	S			
I	R	A	Q	U	P	I	W	O	K	S
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P	H	O	T	O				E	L	E
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N	O	I	R		N	O	N	Z	A	R
		B	O	N	G	O		G	E	L
T	E	D	D	Y	B	E	A	R		A
S	W	E	A	T		A	G	E		I
P	E	N	N	E		L	E	S		N



## United States

## Clinton lowers expectations in Wyo.

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) -- A day before Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sen. Barack Obama were to compete for a small scattering of delegates in Wyoming, Clinton cast herself as the underdog and said the odds are not in her favor. Clinton's campaign has sought to set low expectations for the Saturday caucuses in Wyoming as well as next week's primary in Mississippi, states where her

campaign believes Obama has a better shot at winning.

"I said, 'Well you know what, I'm going to go to Wyoming anyway - I know it's an uphill climb, I'm aware of that,'" Clinton told an audience of more than 1,500 at a community college in Cheyenne. "But, you see, I am a fighter, and I believe it's worth fighting for your votes."

She set a similar tone while campaigning in Mississippi

Thursday night and Friday morning. She said a win for her in that state would be a heavy lift because of Obama's appeal there. Twelve delegates will be awarded in Wyoming's caucuses, followed by 33 on Tuesday in Mississippi.

The relatively small number of delegates in these states, not seen as important weeks ago, have gained value now that the race is down to a numbers

game, following Clinton's triple-win this week in Texas, Ohio and Rhode Island, where she narrowed the gap with Obama.

While Clinton has dispatched her husband, the former president, and her daughter to Mississippi and Wyoming, she has limited her own appearances in the two states. The New York senator, whose voice was hoarse when

she ended her day in Casper on Friday, planned to take a rare two-day break over the weekend.

After that, she was scheduled to begin next week campaigning in Pennsylvania, evidence that she is more focused on what her campaign has said is its next crucial contest. The state's primary is



Clinton

more than six weeks away.

Earlier Friday at a town hall meeting in Mississippi, where some in the audience were undecided or leaning toward Obama, Clinton raised the possibility that she might run with the Illinois senator on the Democratic presidential ticket.



## DUCKMASTER

Assistant duckmaster Don Fort, center, escorts his charges back to their fortress on the rooftop of the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tenn., Friday, March 7, 2008. Maril Jackson, 12, left, joined Fort as the honorary duckmaster with her classmates from Starkville Academy.

## Body packed in ice found in hotel room

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Police discovered the body of a woman packed in a large container with dry ice in a hotel room as they were serving a search warrant in a cocaine investigation, authorities said Friday.

Detectives found the fully clothed and "well preserved" body late Thursday after arresting a guest at the Fairmont Newport Beach for investigation of selling and possessing cocaine on the hotel grounds, police Sgt. Evan Sailor said.

When they searched Stephen David Royds' room, they found the body inside a Rubbermaid container filled with dry ice, he said.

"It's definitely weird," Sailor said.

An autopsy of the body was

"inconclusive" because there was no sign of trauma and her death did not appear to be a homicide, said Dan Akin, an Orange County supervising deputy coroner.

Investigators were trying to identify the woman, who appeared to be in her 20s or 30s, as they awaited results from a blood toxicology test. It wasn't clear how long she had been dead, Sailor said.

Police were also investigating whether Royds was involved in the death. He was held on \$30,000 bail.

Royds, 46, told police he was a resident of Newport Beach, but there was no telephone listing for him. A receptionist at the hotel, a posh complex surrounded by palms, referred inquiries to company spokeswoman Michelle Heston.

## ACROSS THE NATION

## NC campus mourning loss of slain leader

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP)—You couldn't escape Eve Carson's presence at the University of North Carolina. The student body president welcomed all incoming freshmen—each and every one—to stop by her office for a chat. She was a member of the school's Board of Trustees and a tournament-winning intramural flag football team. And for it, North Carolina loved her back. Twice in the hours after learning the 22-year-old Carson had been shot to death early Wednesday on a city street not far from campus, thousands of students, staff and faculty gathered to mourn her death. The tears continued to flow Friday, and it's likely the school will hold another memorial service after students return from next week's spring break.

## Jurors deciding on death, life for man

NORMAN, Okla. (AP)—A jury began deliberations Friday to decide whether to sentence a man to death for luring a 10-year-old girl into his apartment, killing her and mutilating her body. Jurors convicted Kevin Ray Underwood of first-degree murder last week in the death of Jamie Rose Bolin. They must decide whether to give him a death sentence or life in prison, either with or without the possibility of parole. Prosecutors needed to prove either that he is a continuing threat to society or that the crime was heinous and cruel.

## Parents of boy slain in '72 seek answers

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)—When 13-year-old Danny Croteau was found bludgeoned to death in 1972, the boy's father asked a priest to go with him to identify the body. The slaying went unsolved for lack of evidence, but it was continually surrounded by rumors and innuendo about the priest's relationship with the teen, who served as an altar boy when he was killed. That speculation only intensified when the Rev. Richard Lavigne was convicted of molesting other altar boys and later defrocked. Now Danny's aging parents have asked the state's attorney general to review hundreds of new documents recently made public in the case to settle whether Lavigne was their son's killer.

## McCain flashes temper at reporter

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Republican Sen. John McCain, showing a flash of the temper he is known for, repeatedly cut off a reporter Friday when asked whether he had spoken to Democratic Sen. John Kerry about being his vice president in 2004. "Everybody knows that I had a private conversation. Everybody knows that, that I had a conversation," McCain told the reporter. "And you know it, too. No. You know it, too. No. You do know. You do know."

The reporter, Elisabeth Bumiller of The New York Times,

was following up on a question McCain had answered at a campaign event Friday morning in Atlanta. Asked if he might consider Kerry as a running mate, since Kerry asked him in 2004, McCain said no.

Afterward, on a campaign flight, Bumiller said she looked in the Times' archives and that McCain had denied talking with Kerry in a May 2004 story.

McCain interrupted, saying that everyone knew he had a

private conversation, and he kept interrupting as she tried to follow up. McCain clearly was irate.

"I don't know what you read or heard of, and I don't know the circumstances," McCain said. "Maybe in May of '04 I hadn't had a conversation."

Did he recall the conversation? "I don't know, but it's well-

known that I had the conversation. It's absolutely well-known by everyone. So do you have a



McCain

## NY bomber sought, but no link to letters

NEW YORK (AP)—Times Square returned to business as usual Friday as police investigating the explosion at a military recruiting center looked at dozens of security videotapes, hoping to identify the bicycle-riding bomber.

Among the videos was one showing a hooded cyclist pedal-

ing toward an area where a bicycle was found ditched in the trash, and another with someone walking away from the same spot, police said.

Investigators suspect the bike—a 10-speed in good condition—may have been used by the bomber in the attack just before dawn Thursday on a landmark

military recruiting station. Police released a photo of the blue bicycle on Friday, along with a picture from the video of the cyclist.

There were no injuries or serious damage from the bombing, which mirrored two previous small explosions at consulates in Manhattan.

question on another issue?"

Asked again about the conversation, McCain said, "No. No. Because the issue is closed, as far as I'm concerned. Everybody knows it. Everybody knows it in America."

Could he describe the conversation? "No, of course not," McCain said. "I don't describe private conversations. Why should I? Then there's no such thing as a private conversation."

McCain is known for having a temper and has been dubbed "Senator Hothead" by more than one publication.

"We're in the process now of identifying those cameras, downloading them," NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly told CNN on Friday. "We've got a lot of cooperation from the businesses in the area, and we're doing the normal investigative steps that you would expect in a case like this."



## Asia

# Activists protest alleged rapes by US servicemen

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Filipino and Japanese activists marked International Women's Day a day early by marching to the U.S. Embassy in Manila to demand the prosecution of American servicemen accused of raping a Japanese girl and a Filipino woman in Okinawa.

About 100 members of the Unity of Women group and four Japanese activists protested the U.S. military presence in their countries Friday, saying American troops pose a threat to women and children.

"Abuse of women and children abounds where U.S. military personnel are stationed—this is true in Japan and Korea as well as Mindanao," said group spokeswoman Virginia Suarez Pinlac, referring to the southern Philippine region where U.S. counterterrorism troops arm and train Filipino soldiers battling al-Qaida-linked militants.

Japanese activist Susumu Omori, a member of the Santama Peace Cycle group, said it was angered by the alleged rapes in Okinawa.

"The criminals should be punished by Philippine law and Japanese law," he said. The U.S. courts-martial protect their own soldiers, evading the judgments of the Philippine or Japanese courts, he added.

Riot police blocked the protesters' march about two blocks from the embassy.

Last month, American and Japanese officials said a U.S. serviceman was under investigation for the alleged sexual assault of a Filipino woman on the southern island of Okinawa,



A protester shouts slogans as they march towards the U.S. embassy during a rally protesting against the U.S. troops stationed in the country in observance of International Women's Day Friday, March 7, 2008 in Manila, Philippines.

where a U.S. Marine also was arrested on suspicion of raping a 14-year-old Japanese girl.

The Japanese girl later withdrew her complaint against the Marine, and Okinawa police released him into U.S. custody last week.

The Filipino woman's case was still being investigated, officials said.

The cases added to a string of accusations that have fueled anger

over the heavy U.S. military presence in Okinawa. About 50,000 U.S. troops are based in Japan under a security pact between the two countries. Many Japanese complain of crime, pollution and noise associated with the bases.

In 2006 a U.S. Marine was convicted of raping a Filipino woman near Manila. He has been detained at the U.S. Embassy instead of a local jail, triggering protests by left-wing activists.

## Thais may charge reputed arms dealer

**BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)**—Thai officials said Friday they might file terrorism charges against a reputed Russian arms dealer arrested at U.S. behest, and a war crimes prosecutor expressed a desire to try the man dubbed the "Merchant of Death" for fueling African civil wars.

Viktor Bout, 41, was detained Thursday at a hotel in Bangkok, where American officials said he had come to finalize a deal to sell and transport portable surface-to-air missiles and other weapons to men he believed represented the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

But the multimillion-dollar deal he allegedly thought he had with Colombian rebels was really the culmination of an elaborate four-month sting operation concocted by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

## Campaign wraps up in Malaysian election

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)**—Malaysians voted Saturday in parliamentary elections that could see gains for Malaysia's opposition amid anger over race and religion among minority Chinese and Indians.

Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's coalition appeared certain to win the balloting as it has for decades.

However, analysts predicted the opposition would win between 35 and 38 seats in parliament, nearly doubling its 19-seat share of the 289-seat body amid growing disenchantment among ethnic minorities who complain of discrimination.

Abdullah, dressed in a long blue button shirt and accompanied by his wife, was among the first voters to cast ballot in northern Penang state.

"We need a change," said R. Munusamy, a 70-year-old ethnic Indian who voted in Kuala

Lumpur. "We are not happy with what is going on."

A first-time voter, Michael Lim, said corruption remains a problem. "They have not taken care of the people. A lot of promises were made, but nothing fulfilled," he said.

Abdullah has been accused of failing to properly manage inflation, crime, corruption and, most importantly, ethnic tensions between the majority Malays and ethnic minorities.

"There should be a swing in these seats," said Tricia Yeoh, director of the Center for Public Policy Studies think tank. "The Chinese and Indian votes will be the important swing votes."

A reduced majority for the National Front would be seen as a personal rebuke for Abdullah, who has lost much of the goodwill he had when he replaced longtime leader Mahathir Mohamad in 2003.

## Across the Globe

### Former British PM Thatcher in hospital

**LONDON (AP)**—Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was hospitalized in stable condition in central London on Saturday and was under going medical checks, authorities said. St. Thomas' Hospital said the former leader, 82, was expected to spend the night in hospital for observation.

"We can confirm that Baroness Thatcher has been admitted to St. Thomas' Hospital and is expected to remain in hospital overnight for observation," the hospital said in a statement. "Her condition is stable and she is speaking to the medical staff who are caring for her."

Thatcher—Britain's first female prime minister—has often appeared at private functions in recent years but makes few public statements.

Earlier this year, she urged members of her Conservatives Party to "hold firm to their beliefs" as she was honored with a statue at the party's headquarters.

"Today, as we face the challenges of the future, let us remain steadfast and sure. Let us set a clear course for our country," she said.

Nicknamed the "Iron Lady," Thatcher was prime minister from May 1979 until her resignation in November 1990. She was the first leader to win three elections in a row.

Thatcher dominated British politics in the 1980s and was a firm supporter of her ideological colleague President Reagan.

She was also a divisive figure and left her Conservative Party a bickering shambles after she fell from power in 1990.

She was given a clear bill of health by doctors in December 2005 after spending a night in the



Former British Prime Minister Baroness Margaret Thatcher is seen at a wreath laying ceremony in London, in this Friday, Nov. 9, 2007 file photo.

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in London for tests after feeling faint.

The hospital described her as a model patient.

In March 2002, She cut back her workload after doctors said she had suffered a series of strokes.

## Latin presidents move to end crisis

**SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)**—South American presidents reached a testy compromise Friday to resolve a dangerous crisis triggered by a Colombian military attack in Ecuador, stepping back from a week of insults, troop movements and talk of war.

After an emotional debate followed on live television throughout Latin America, the presidents of Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador offered one another stiff handshakes and joined other Latin American presidents in approving a declaration resolving to work for a peaceful end to the crisis.

The statement notes that Colombian President Alvaro Uribe apologized for the March 1 raid that killed 25 people including a senior rebel commander, and that he pledged not to violate another nation's sovereignty again. But it also committed all the countries to fight threats to national stability from "irregular or criminal groups," a reference to Colombia's accusation that its two neighbors have ties to Colombian rebels.

In the end, even Ecuador's Rafael Correa—who was brimming with anger during the debate—seemed satisfied.

"With the commitment to

never again attack a brother country and the request for forgiveness, we can consider this grave incident as over," he said.

The leaders immediately began to reverse their steps toward conflict.

Colombia pledged not to follow through on its threat to seek genocide charges against Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez at an international court. Nicaragua said it would restore diplomatic relations with Colombia, broken off only the day before. Chavez said trade with Colombia should "keep increasing," two days after saying he didn't want even "a grain of rice" from his neighbor.

## Archaeologists unveil finds in Rome digs

**ROME (AP)**—A sixth-century copper factory, medieval kitchens still stocked with pots and pans, and remains of Renaissance palaces are among the finds unveiled Friday by archaeologists digging up Rome in preparation for a new subway line. Archaeologists have been probing the depths of the Eternal City at 38 digs, many of which are near famous monuments or on key thoroughfares.

Over the last nine months, remains—including Roman taverns and 16th-century palace foundations—have turned up at the central Piazza Venezia and near the ancient Forum where works are paving the way for one of the 30 stations of Rome's third subway line.

"The medieval and Renais-

sance finds that were brought to light in Piazza Venezia are extremely important for their rarity," said archaeologist Mirella Serlorenzi, who is working on the site.

Serlorenzi said that among the most significant discoveries in a ninth-century kitchen were three pots that were used to heat sauce. Only two others had been found previously in Italy.

The copper factory "factory" was used to work on copper alloys, and it consisted of small ovens, traces of which can be seen. Small copper ingots were found and are being analyzed.

The archaeological investigations are needed only for stairwells and air ducts, as the 15 miles of stations and tunnels will be dug at a depth of 80 to 100 feet - below the level

of any past human habitation, experts said.

However, most of the digs still have to reach the earth strata that date back to Roman times, where plenty of surprises may be waiting. That may create problems between planners and conservationists, officials said.

"It is impossible that there will not be situations of conflict. We know that in some cases the conflict will create a removal of ancient ruins," Rome's archaeological superintendent Angelo Bottini told The Associated Press.

Under Italy's strict conservation laws, it will be up to Bottini's office for Rome to decide whether a find will be removed, destroyed or encased within the subway's structures.



## Focus

## Japan looks to a robot future

**TOKYO (AP)**—At a university lab in a Tokyo suburb, engineering students are wiring a rubbery robot face to simulate six basic expressions: anger, fear, sadness, happiness, surprise and disgust.

Hooked up to a database of words clustered by association, the robot—dubbed Kansei, or “sensitivity”—responds to the word “war” by quivering in what looks like disgust and fear. It hears “love,” and its pink lips smile.

“To live among people, robots need to handle complex social tasks,” said project leader Junichi Takeno of Meiji University. “Robots will need to work with emotions, to understand and eventually feel them.”

While robots are a long way from matching human emotional complexity, the country is perhaps the closest to a future—once the stuff of science fiction—where humans and intelligent robots routinely live side by side and interact socially.

Robots are already taken for granted in Japanese factories, so much so that they are sometimes welcomed on their first day at work with Shinto religious ceremonies. Robots make sushi. Robots plant rice and tend paddies.

There are robots serving as receptionists, vacuuming office corridors, spoon-feeding the elderly. They serve tea, greet company guests and chatter away at public technology displays. Now startups are marching out robotic home helpers.

They aren’t all humanoid. The Paro is a furry robot seal fitted with sensors beneath its fur and whiskers, designed to comfort the lonely, opening and closing its eyes and moving its flippers.

For Japan, the robotics revolution is an imperative. With more than a fifth of the population 65 or older, the country is banking on robots to replenish the work force and care for the elderly.

In the past several years, the government has funded a plethora of robotics-related efforts, including some \$42 million for the first phase of a humanoid robotics project, and \$10 million a year between 2006 and 2010 to develop key robot technologies.

The government estimates the industry could surge from about \$5.2 billion in 2006 to \$26 billion in 2010 and



Japanese hospital patients share the waiting room with a “Receptionist Robot” in Aizu Wakamatsu, Japan, on June 25, 2007. The hospital has purchased three of the robots to greet patients, guide people to elevators, run simple tests, and entertain people in the waiting room area. Japan faces a vast challenge in making the leap—commercially and culturally—from toys, gimmicks and the experimental robots churned out by laboratories to full-blown human replacements that ordinary people can afford and use safely.

nearly \$70 billion by 2025.

Besides financial and technological power, the robot wave is favored by the Japanese mind-set as well.

Robots have long been portrayed as friendly helpers in Japanese popular culture, a far cry from the often rebellious and violent machines that often inhabit Western science fiction.

This is, after all, the country that invented Tamagotchi, the hand-held mechanical pets that captivated the children of the world.

Japanese are also more accepting of robots because the native Shinto religion often blurs boundaries between the animate and inanimate, experts say. To the Japanese psyche, the idea of a humanoid robot with feelings doesn’t feel as creepy—or as threatening—as it might do in other cultures.

Still, Japan faces a vast challenge in making the leap—commercially and culturally—from toys, gimmicks and the experimental robots churned out by

labs like Takeno’s to full-blown human replacements that ordinary people can afford and use safely.

“People are still asking whether people really want robots running around their homes, and folding their clothes,” said Damian Thong, senior technology analyst at Macquarie Bank in Tokyo.

“But then again, Japan’s the only country in the world where everyone has an electric toilet,” he said. “We could be looking at a robotics revolution.”

That revolution has been going on quietly for some time.

Japan is already an industrial robot powerhouse. Over 370,000 robots worked at factories across Japan in 2005, about 40 percent of the global total and 32 robots for every 1,000 Japanese manufacturing employees, according to a recent report by Macquarie, which had no numbers from subsequent years.

And they won’t be claiming overtime or drawing pensions when they’re retired.

“The cost of machinery is going down, while labor costs are rising,” said Eimei Onaga, CEO of Innovation Matrix Inc., a company that distributes Japanese robotics technology in the U.S. “Soon, robots could even replace low-cost workers at small firms, greatly boosting productivity.”

That’s just what the Japanese government has been counting on. A 2007 national technology roadmap by the Trade Ministry calls for 1 million industrial robots to be installed throughout the country by 2025.

A single robot can replace about 10 employees, the roadmap assumes—meaning Japan’s future million-robot army of workers could take the place of 10 million humans. That’s about 15 percent of the current work force.

“Robots are the cornerstone of Japan’s international competitiveness,” Shunichi Uchiyama, the Trade Minis-

try’s chief of manufacturing industry policy, said at a recent seminar. “We expect robotics technology to enter even more sectors going forward.”

Meanwhile, localities looking to boost regional industry clusters have seized on robotics technology as a way to spur advances in other fields.

Robotic technology is used to build more complex cars, for instance, and surgical equipment.

The logical next step is robots in everyday life.

At a hospital in Aizu Wakamatsu, 190 miles north of Tokyo, a child-sized white and blue robot wheels across the floor, guiding patients to and from the outpatients’ surgery area.

The robot, made by startup Tmsk, sports perky catlike ears, recites simple greetings, and uses sensors to detect and warn people in the way. It helpfully prints out maps of the hospital, and even checks the state of patients’ arteries.

The Aizu Chuo Hospital spent about some \$557,000 installing three of the robots in its waiting rooms to test patients’ reactions. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, said spokesman Naoya Narita.

“We feel this is a good division of labor. Robots won’t ever become doctors, but they can be guides and receptionists,” Narita said.

Still, the wheeled machines hadn’t won over all seniors crowding the hospital waiting room on a weekday morning.

“It just told us to get out of the way!” huffed wheelchair-bound Hiroshi Asami, 81. “It’s a robot. It’s the one who should get out my way.”

“I prefer dealing with real people,” he said.

Another roadblock is money.

For all its research, Japan has yet to come up with a commercially successful consumer robot. Mitsubishi

Heavy Industries Ltd. failed to sell even one of its pricey toddler-sized Wakamaru robots, launched in 2003 as domestic helpers.

Though initially popular, Sony Corp. pulled the plug on its robot dog, Aibo, in 2006, just seven years after its launch. With a price tag of a whopping \$2,000, Aibo never managed to break into the mass market.

One of the only commercially successful consumer robots so far is made by an American company, iRobot Corp. The Roomba vacuum cleaner robot is self-propelled and can clean rooms without supervision.

“We can pretty much make anything, but we have to ask, what are people actually going to buy?” said iRobot CEO Helen Greiner. The company has sold 2.5 million—which retail for as little as \$120—since the line was launched in 2002.

Still, with the correct approach, robots could provide a wealth of consumer goods, Greiner stressed at a recent convention.

Sure enough, Japanese makers are catching on, launching low-cost robots like Tomy’s \$300 i-Sobot, a toy-like hobby robot that comes with 17 motors, can recognize spoken words and can be remote-controlled.

Sony is also trying to learn from past mistakes, launching a much cheaper \$350 rolling speaker robot last year that built on its robotics technology.

“What we need now isn’t the ultimate humanoid robot,” said Kyoji Takenaka, the head of the industry-wide Robot Business Promotion Council.

“Engineers need to remember that the key to developing robots isn’t in the lab, but in everyday life.”

Still, some of the most eye-catching developments in robotics are coming out of Japan’s labs.

Researchers at Osaka University, for instance, are developing a robot to better understand child development.

The “Child-Robot with Biomimetic Body” is designed to mimic the motions of a toddler. It responds to sounds, and sensors in its eyes can see and react to people. It wiggles, changes facial expressions, and makes gurgling sounds.

The team leader, Minoru Asada, is working on artificial intelligence software that would allow the child to “learn” as it progresses.

“Right now, it only goes, ‘Ah, ah.’ But as we develop its learning function, we hope it can start saying more complex sentences and moving on its own will,” Asada said. “Next-generation robots need to be able to learn and develop themselves.”

For Hiroshi Ishiguro, also at Osaka University, the key is to make robots that look like human beings. His Geminoid robot looks uncannily like himself—down to the black, wiry hair and slight tan.

“In the end, we don’t want to interact with machines or computers. We want to interact with technology in a human way so it’s natural and valid to try to make robots look like us,” he said.

“One day, they will live among us,” Ishiguro said. “Then you’d have to ask me: ‘Are you human? Or a robot?’”



A humanoid robot, designed to make human-like facial expressions in response to English and Japanese words as they are typed into an attached computer system, is rewired by a robot developer at a university robotics laboratory in Tokyo on May 15, 2007.



# Life & Style

## 'NYPD Blue' star evades rape charge

LOS ANGELES (AP)—No criminal charges will be filed against "NYPD Blue" star Esai Morales over allegations that he raped his ex-girlfriend, a prosecutor's office spokeswoman said Friday.

The Los Angeles County district attorney's office rejected the case on Feb. 13, citing lack of evidence, spokeswoman Shira M. Davila said.

"I'm happy that my client was vindicated," Morales' attorney, Richard Charnley, said Friday. "He was never questioned by the police, never taken into custody, there were never any charges brought against him."

Morales' former girlfriend, Elizabeth Mazzocchi, alleged that he raped her in April 2006. Morales has denied committing any crime, Charnley said. He also noted that Mazzocchi continued to live with Morales for months after the alleged rape.

The Associated Press generally does not identify people who say they have been sexually assaulted, but Mazzocchi has been very public with her allegations,



including the holding of a news conference to detail accusations against Morales.

Mazzocchi has sued Morales in Los Angeles County Superior Court for unspecified damages, contending he raped her and gave her herpes. The lawsuit is awaiting trial.

"She stands by her allegations, absolutely," said Nader Pakfar, an attorney representing Mazzocchi in the civil case.

Pakfar said an investigation for the civil case may uncover additional evidence that might convince the district attorney's office to file criminal charges.

The DA had a very limited investigation and did not have the benefit of any of the evidence that's going to come out, he said.

Morales, 45, appeared in the movies "Bad Boys" and "La Bamba," and played Lt. Tony Rodriguez on "NYPD Blue."

sai Morales arrives at a pre-Oscars party in this Feb. 2007 file photo in Los Angeles. AP

## Lil Wayne seeks lesser Ariz. drug charge

YUMA, Ariz. (AP)—Lawyers for rapper Lil Wayne have filed a motion in Yuma County Superior Court to reduce a charge of possession of drugs for sale.

The 25-year-old rapper, whose real name is Dwayne Michael Carter Jr., was indicted

last month on one count each of possession of a narcotic drug for sale, possession of dangerous drugs, misconduct involving weapons and one count of possession of drug paraphernalia.

He has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Carter's attorney James Tilson said Friday that the original complaint given to the grand jury stated his client was in possession of about 29 grams of cocaine when he was arrested in January.

But Tilson contends a lab

report shows that Carter had fewer than eight grams, not including the weight of the packaging.

In Arizona, there is a statutory presumption that possession of nine grams or more means an intent to sell, Tilson said. It could also mean the difference between jail time and probation.

A May 13 hearing is scheduled on the motion to remand the case back to the grand jury.

The rapper was arrested after his tour bus was stopped

on Jan. 22 at a U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint near Dateland, Ariz., 78 miles east of Yuma.

Authorities said a search of the bus by Drug Enforcement Administration agents yielded nearly four ounces of marijuana, slightly more than one ounce of cocaine, 41 grams of Ecstasy and miscellaneous drug paraphernalia.

Also found was a .40-caliber pistol registered to Carter, who has a concealed weapons permit in Florida.

## Juanes preaches peace on tour in US

NEW YORK (AP)—Juanes kicked off the U.S. leg of his world tour at Madison Square Garden, bringing a message of peace and a giddy enthusiasm to be performing in "the temple of music."

He opened Thursday night with his hit "A Dios le pido," and kept the public on its feet with more than 20 songs, including "Mala gente," "Fotografia," "Volverte a ver" and the mega-hit "La camisa negra."

The Colombia star showed his activist colors, preaching peace between his homeland and its neighbors amid a diplomatic crisis over a deadly Colombian cross-border raid into Ecuador last week that killed a senior Colombian rebel and 24 others.

"This night as a Colombian, I want to extend my right hand and embrace all my Ecuadorean brothers, I want to extend my left hand and embrace all my

Venezuelan brothers," Juanes said. "Only we can come together under a single flag, the flag of peace."

A hush fell over the stadium as Juanes led a tribute to landmine victims, singing "Minas piedras" while two giant screens carried images of the victims of anti-personnel mines by photo-journalist Gervasio Sanchez.

Leading a band of seven, guitar in hand, Juanes briefly lost his way while singing "Mentira" —but the crowd was forgiving.

"I forgot the lyrics and it's my turn to improvise," Juanes confessed to wave of applause.

For an encore, Juanes played a rousing rendition of Colombian Joe Arroyo's "La rebelion."

Juanes is planning a free concert at the Colombian-Venezuela border to foster peaceful resolution of the crisis embroiling both nations and Ecuador, his public relations firm said Friday.

The concert is to take place at the border between the Colombian city of Cucuta and the Venezuelan city of San Antonio de Tachira within the next three weeks, firm Rogers & Cowan announced in a statement released in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, where the presidents of Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador met Friday to try to resolve their differences.

Juanes will ask musicians from Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and other Latin American nations to join with concertgoers "in demanding that the region's governments find a diplomatic solution to ease the growing military presence along area borders," the firm said.

The rocker has previously performed as part of the Nobel Peace Prize awards ceremony and to raise awareness and money for an anti-landmine foundation in Colombia.

### THREE WISE GUYS

## Food-hoarding, ring fingers

By JOE HEIM, JUSTIN RUDE and DAN ZAK  
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### Dear Wise Guys:

Could you explain the bizarre behavior of a well-paid lawyer? I point out his profession for obvious reasons: He has a six-plus-figure income, so he's not strapped for cash. Whenever there are leftovers from a meeting or firm social event, he hovers around and (A) is the first of the folks lined up for leftovers and (B) proceeds to stuff food in his pockets. I don't mean a couple of crackers wrapped in a napkin, but stuff that you just wouldn't put in your pocket and then eat (doughnuts, half a sandwich, cheese—you get the idea). It's so gross, and he believes he is being sly about it. Trust me, he's not, and there are a lot of "ewwws" going on behind his back. What is up with this?!—Crass in Pocket

Dan: I'm not sure why you think this is a problem. This guy sounds like a food-gathering genius.

Justin: And it's very possible that his suit pockets are lined with plastic and refrigerated.

Joe: Is he a former journalist? If so, that might explain it. He sounds like just about every reporter and editor in our newsroom.

■ ■ ■

### Dear Wise Guys:

Why is it that here in the United States we wear wedding rings on our left ring fingers, but many Europeans, Russians and others use their right ring fingers?—Jen

Joe: Are you sure the ones you've met weren't just slimy Europeans pretending they weren't married? We put your question to Vicki Howard, a professor of history at Hartwick College and the author of "Brides Inc.: American Weddings and the Business of Tradition."

She e-mailed us that "it seems to be a matter of different religious custom or religious influence." In her book she writes: "In the medieval Sarum, the ring was placed on the bride's right hand. This became the left hand in Thomas Cranmer's Anglican marriage service. In paintings in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, however, Catholic and Jewish brides stood with either the right or left hand outstretched."

When we asked how this explained the difference between Europe and the United States, Howard responded that "American wedding ring customs have followed English bridal practices, which came out of the Anglican ceremony. Perhaps Europeans today continue to reflect the medieval practice, changed during the Reformation, of receiving the bridal ring on the right hand."

She had no explanation, however, for why European men still insist on wearing Speedo bathing suits when they go to the beach.

## Study says romance makes for safer sex

By LAURA SESSIONS STEPP  
© 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Teen-age romance can be a good thing and so can dating, a large study of youth in grades 7 through 12 has concluded.

An analysis of national data conducted by Child Trends, a research center that focuses on children and youth, found that sexually active teens who identify their relationships with a partner as romantic and who go out socially with that person are more likely to use contraceptives than similar teens in more-casual relationships.

This may be because they feel more comfortable talking about contraception with a partner they know and trust, said Jennifer Manlove, a senior research scientist at Child Trends and one of the study's authors. Among girls in particular, good communication and the quality of the relationship appear to play an important role in decision-making.

The analysis, taken from information on more than 4,500 unmarried, sexually experienced young people, also found that girls were more likely to use contraception with boys their age than with older males. The teens were, on average, 16 years old when they first had sex.

A fact sheet released by Child Trends contained some sobering news drawn from the study. For example, a teen's contraceptive use may change from partner to partner. Using birth control consistently in one relationship doesn't necessarily mean that a young person will do the same with another partner.

Use of contraception, in fact, is not as regular as health officials might hope. Four out of 10 sexually active students reported not using contraceptives at all or using them only infrequently. Students who reported having multiple partners were particularly likely not to use protection.

### Injury sidelines Itzhak Perlman

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP)—Itzhak Perlman has canceled a concert because of a shoulder injury.

The 62-year-old Israeli-American violinist, who in 2003 was treated for a rotator cuff tear on his right shoulder, was to perform Sunday at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

On Thursday, his agent called to say he needed to cancel because of shoulder inflammation, said Kimberly Mouser, assistant director of the Concert Series.

"We are canceling the performance this weekend but are looking for another date with the hope of re-scheduling as soon as possible," said Elizabeth Sobol, Perlman's manager.

Perlman's recordings have won 15 Grammy awards. Last month, he won a Grammy Award for lifetime achievement. He was the soloist in John Williams' Oscar-winning score for "Schindler's List."





AP

Lou Pearlman poses outside his office's at Church Street Station in Orlando, Fla., in this Oct. 27, 2006 file photo.

## Boy band mogul Pearlman pleads guilty

**ORLANDO, Fla.** (AP)—For years, Lou Pearlman wowed banks and investors with slick talk and a lavish lifestyle. But when the one-time architect of the Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync set his hand on a courtroom Bible, he set the act aside. Pearlman pleaded guilty Thursday to federal charges of conspiracy, money laundering and making false statements during a bankruptcy proceeding. The plea was the result of a lengthy federal probe alleging he bilked investors and banks out of more than \$300 million.

Pearlman's Transcontinental Airlines Inc. didn't have 41 airplanes, as he represented to investors. He had two, he said in court.

And he didn't have a German investment partner with a \$50 million line of bailout capital, he acknowledged. In fact, that guy was also trying to get money out of him.

"I'm accepting full responsibility," Pearlman said in a roughly 50-minute change of plea hearing.

He will be sentenced May 21, and faces up to 25 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

Pearlman also pledged to help prosecutors locate coconspirators and any remaining assets, but couldn't explain to U.S. District Judge G. Kendall Sharp where the money went.

"In different investments," he said. "Aircraft, living expenses, working capital."

Pearlman acknowledged setting up a fake accounting firm to create business documents and tax returns for himself and his companies. He also admitted using the signature of a deceased former associate, Harry Milner, to push off anyone seeking repayment. Milner hadn't worked with Pearlman since 1989, the mogul acknowledged, and died in 2003.

Pearlman defrauded individual investors in two ways: by selling "stock" in largely asset-less companies for more than 20 years, even after at least one lost its incorporation.

He also invited outsiders to pay into an employee investment savings program. It promised high yields, but operated like a typical Ponzi scheme. All the money was funneled into one account that Pearlman used to bank-roll other ventures.

# Madonna leads class into rock hall

By **DAVID BAUDER**  
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Admit it. When Madonna was writhing around onstage in a wedding gown to "Like a Virgin" years ago, the last place you'd expect to see her was in something called the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Time has a way of changing things. On Monday, Madge will come to the stage of the Waldorf-Astoria to accept enshrinement. Classmate John Mellencamp, who also churned out hit after hit in the 1980s, will join her.

The Dave Clark Five, whose lead singer Mike Smith died of pneumonia on Feb. 28, are being inducted as well as Philly soul legends Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff, Canadian songwriter Leonard Cohen, surf rockers the Ventures and blues harmonica ace Little Walter.

But Madonna?

She's the pre-eminent pop star of her generation, who stayed a step ahead of trends while adding in shock value to keep herself in the news. Along the way she's made sturdy, state-of-the-art pop such as "Material Girl," "Crazy For You," "Papa Don't Preach," "Cherish," "Like a Prayer," "Vogue" and "Ray of Light."

Yet "if you think of rock 'n' roll, Madonna is not the first name that comes to mind," said Steve Morse, longtime Boston Globe music critic who was a member of the hall of fame's nominating committee for seven years.

He considers her selection, particularly in her first year of eligibility, an embarrassment.

Her music was never played on rock 'n' roll radio, he said. Some veteran rock artists like Deep Purple, the J. Geils Band, Steve Miller and Alice Cooper are still waiting for induction. Morse long and unsuccessfully argued on behalf of the late Gram Parsons.

"It seems like this is driven by com-



mercial achievement and sales, rather than having anything to do with the rock 'n' roll genre," Morse said. "It's really a commercial move. They'll be able to sell more tickets to the museum and more people will watch the broadcast."

With rock's founding fathers already in the hall, the museum has broadened

its meaning of rock 'n' roll to include rap and pop artists. Grandmaster Flash last year became the first hip-hop artist to make it.

Madonna, who declined interview requests, will answer on Monday night.

She's being inducted by Justin Timberlake. And unlike many contempo-

rary artists—Madonna's new album, "Hard Candy," is dropping April 29—she's not scheduled to perform. Instead, she chose Iggy Pop, the ultimate crawl-around-on-glass punk rocker who shares her Michigan ancestry, to salute her work.

Tom Hanks will induct the Dave Clark Five, the '60s British pop band behind the hit "Glad All Over." Billy Joel will give the speech for Mellenkamp, and Lou Reed speaks on behalf of fellow literate songwriter Cohen.

For the second straight year, VH1 Classic will show the induction ceremony live at 8:30 p.m. EDT.

Singer Madonna arrives at "A Night to Benefit Raising Malawi and UNICEF" at United Nations headquarters, in this Feb. 6, 2008, file photo in New York.

AP

## Kelly Rowland had breast enhancement

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Kelly Rowland tells People magazine in its March 17 issue that she had plastic surgery last October to bring her "from an A-cup to a B-cup."

As for the one-cup upgrade, Rowland says: "I didn't want to have double Ds and be a little bitty size 2 - that would look nuts!"

The 27-year-old singer went under the knife after a long decision-making process.

"I was sick of not fitting into my tops," she says. "There was this one really hot House of Dereon top—I just wanted to fill that out!"

Rowland says that top - designed by Beyonce's mom, Tina Knowles—complements her new curves: "I put it on and I looked so good! I'm so happy. I feel complete."

Rowland, who has released two solo albums, says she hesitated to discuss the surgery.

"It is a decision I made for myself. I like it, and that's all that counts. For young people: Think about it before you just jump off and do something (you may regret later)," she says.



AP

Singer Kelly Rowland is seen before the start of the Pro Bowl football game in Honolulu, in this, Feb. 10, 2008, file photo.



AP

Singer Lisa Marie Presley is shown in the, Dec. 6, 2007, file photo in New York.

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Lisa Marie Presley wanted to keep her pregnancy private, but felt she had to say something when photos of her looking heavier were ridiculed in the news media.

"After being the target all week of slanderous and degrading stories, horribly manipulated pictures and articles in the media, I have had to show my cards and announce under the gun and under vicious personal attack that I am in fact pregnant," the 40-year-old singer wrote on her MySpace page.

Presley and her husband, music producer Michael Lockwood, are expecting a baby next fall, her spokeswoman, Cindy Guagenti, said Friday. It will be the third child for Presley, who has two children from her marriage to ex-husband Danny Keough.

The announcement comes several days after photos of Presley - daughter of Elvis Presley and actress Priscilla - eating lunch in Los Angeles made the media rounds, with the London newspaper The Daily Mail asking: "Like father like daughter? Bloated Lisa Marie is now the double of dad Elvis."

Guagenti told The Associated Press: "I mean, if you read some of the stories it's like, 'she's gonna die like her father,' 'her and her mom are in a fight because of her weight' - that's not true at all. It's just awful stuff."

Presley, who was once married to Michael Jackson and Nicolas Cage too, said she was "seething" over speculation on her weight gain.

"You KNOW if you were pregnant and you felt you were expanding uncontrollably by the moment as a result, and the worldwide media started badgering and harassing you for it, plastering you everywhere in an unflattering light, you would be mortified as well," she said.



## Granddad hopes to open girl's eyes and head off heartbreak

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** My wife and I recently visited our daughter and two beautiful grandchildren, "Mary" (age 17) and "Patrick" (age 15). Mary has a boyfriend I'll call "Brandon" who is all she has talked about since we arrived. She's quite smitten.

One night I was having trouble falling asleep and decided to go downstairs for a glass of wine. As I descended the stairs, I noticed Patrick and Brandon locked in a passionate embrace on the couch. They never noticed me, and I quietly returned upstairs. The boys' lovemaking did not help my insomnia.

I haven't mentioned what I saw to anybody. I am not bothered by the gay aspect of the encounter I witnessed. However, my paternal instincts make me want to protect Mary from being hurt. I don't believe in meddling, but I'm not sure keeping silent is right, either. Any advice?

SURPRISED GRANDPOP IN PHILLY

**DEAR GRANDPOP:** I assume that Patrick has not yet come out to the family about his sexual orientation. If that's the case, then I don't recommend you out him by telling his sister what you saw. I do, however, think you should discuss it with Patrick, because he should be the one to tell Mary she shouldn't pin her hopes on Brandon, as he's not the person he may pretend to be.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My twin sister and I are close, but sometimes we like to do things apart from each other.

Other kids don't seem to understand why we're not together 100 percent of the time, even though we're together probably 90 percent of the time. When we're not together, we are invariably asked, "Where's your sister?" or "Did you two have a fight?" We're tired of having to explain that nothing is wrong and that we've just chosen to do something different at a particular time.

We share a room and sleep in a double bed, so we are always very close at home. But once in a while, we like to get out and do something apart, and we don't see why others should question it. How do we put an end to these questions and comments?

NOT SIAMESE IN MEDFORD, ORE.

**DEAR NOT SIAMESE:** The reason you are asked those questions is because you and your sister are together 90 percent of the time. People tend to question anything that is unusual, and seeing you apart is unusual. There is no way to put an end to the questions, but you can keep your sense of humor and respond honestly by saying, "We're not joined at the hip. We felt like doing something different today."

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** Can you suggest a sincere, non-religious phrase that is the equivalent of "I'll keep you in my prayers"?

I'm not formally religious, but when I have a friend who is sick or experiencing a rough patch, I want to say something that carries the same sentiment. I'm not comfortable "acting" religious when I'm not, but I would like friends to know how truly concerned I am and how much I hope they get better.

CARING TEXAN

**DEAR CARING TEXAN:** Say it to them just as you have said it to me: "I'm concerned for you, and I hope you are better soon; you're in my thoughts today and every day."

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)*



*Dear Abby*

## JT's 'Problem' with women



Justin Timberlake poses backstage at the MTV Video Music Awards in this Sept. 9, 2007, file photo in Las Vegas.

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Justin Timberlake—who isn't exactly hurting from lack of attention from women—is producing an NBC pilot about a bachelor who strikes out with the ladies. The Grammy-winning pop star is an executive producer on "My Problem with Women," which follows thirtysomething Jose as he attempts to understand his romantic failures through therapy sessions, Reveille Studios announced Friday.

The show is based on "Mi Problema con las Mujeres," a Peruvian TV comedy.

Reveille, the production company headed by Ben Silver-

man before he became NBC's entertainment chief last year, developed the BBC series "The Office" for NBC and the Spanish-language telenova "Ugly Betty" for ABC.

Timberlake, 27, keeps expanding his reach in Hollywood. The former boy-bander has released two ambitious solo albums; appeared in the films "Alpha Dog" and "Black Snake Moan"; and voiced a character in last year's animated blockbuster "Shrek the Third."

Timberlake launched a record label last year, and co-founded the William Rast fashion line with friend Trace Ayala.

## 'Sopranos' movie rumor revealed

**LODI, N.J. (AP)**—Hold the poles! Is a Sopranos movie in the works? The real-life manager of the strip club that fronted for the Bada Bing on HBO's "The Sopranos" thinks there might be. Satin Dolls manager Nick D'Urso says he's holding off on renovations to the strip club in Lodi, N.J., after getting a tip that a movie would be made. He wouldn't name the tipster.

An HBO spokeswoman says there's no truth to the rumor that plans are in the works for a film about Tony Soprano and his mob crew. As first reported in The Record of Bergen County, D'Urso says he'll wait until after the summer to renovate in case the tip pans out.

Satin Dolls has already auctioned off its bronze-colored strip-per poles and replaced them.

## Dylan: My hat's off to you, lady

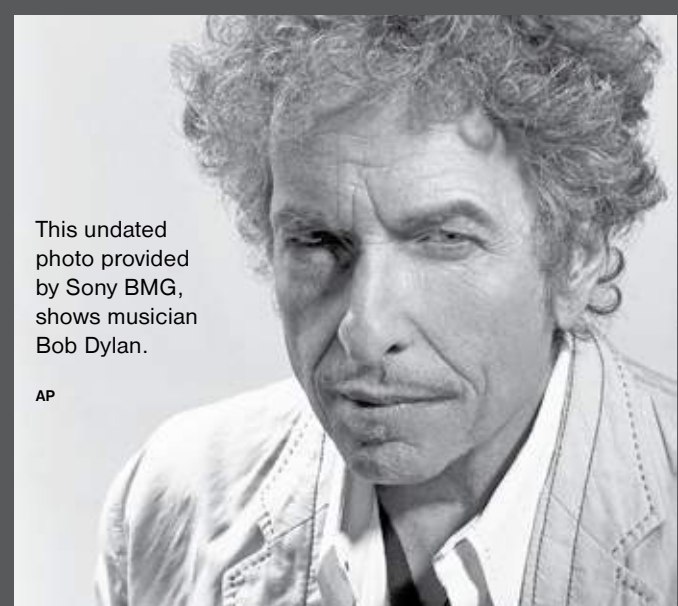
**SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP)**—If at first you don't succeed at stealing Bob Dylan's hat, try a kiss instead. A young Brazilian woman rushed onstage during Dylan's encore in Sao Paulo on Thursday night, hugging and kissing him and trying to swipe his Cordoba hat before three bouncers whisked her away.

When he finished the encore, the normally untalkative Dylan thanked the audience

and said he wanted to meet the woman so he could give her his hat. It was not clear whether they met.

Local media later reported that the woman was seen after the show with a group of friends singing: "I kissed Bob Dylan, la, la, la."

Currently on a Latin American tour, Dylan is scheduled to perform in Rio de Janeiro on Saturday.



This undated photo provided by Sony BMG, shows musician Bob Dylan.

AP



## 'Gilligan' creator gets Hollywood star

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Sherwood Schwartz, who created the TV comedy classics "Gilligan's Island" and "The Brady Bunch," gleefully thanked the leading ladies of those shows Friday when he received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"To me, Dawn will always be Mary Ann on 'Gilligan's Island' and Florence will always be Mrs. Brady," said Schwartz, 91, referring to actresses Dawn Wells and Florence Henderson, who spoke during the ceremony.

Schwartz mused about his start in show biz, which happened "by accident," he said.

Schwartz said came to Southern California from New York in 1938 to get a master's degree in biological sciences. In need of work, he started writing jokes for Bob Hope's radio show, which

Schwartz's brother Al worked for.

"Bob liked my jokes, used them on his show and got big laughs. Then he asked me to join his writing staff," Schwartz said. "I was faced with a major decision—writing comedy or starving to death while I cured those diseases. I made a quick career change."

Schwartz went on to write for "The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet" and other radio shows.

He turned to TV in the 1950s, eventually creating "Gilligan's Island" in 1963.

After the show ended in 1967, Schwartz created the blended family comedy "The Brady Bunch," for which he also wrote the theme song.

Syndicated reruns of both shows have made them longtime TV comedy staples.

Writer/producer Sherwood Schwartz reacts during a ceremony where he was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles Friday, March 7, 2008.

AP



# CLASSIFIED ADS



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**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**1 COOK (FSUN 0019)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmans compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering dba Auntie Mag's Food & Catering @288-4799.

**2 FOOD SERVER (FSUN 0020)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmans compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering dba Auntie Mag's Food & Catering @288-4799.

**1 WAREHOUSE WORKER (FSUN 0021)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmans compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering dba Auntie Mag's Food & Catering @288-4799.

**2 FOOD ATTENDANT (FSUN 0022)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmans compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering dba Auntie Mag's Food & Catering @288-4799.

**2 KITCHEN HELPER (FSUN 0023)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmans compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering dba Auntie Mag's Food & Catering @288-4799.

**1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (FSUN 0024)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; provided own food; workers compensation; medical covered & free transportation. Contact: Advance Group, LLC dba Advance X-Terminators & Pest Control @233-4747.

**1 MANAGER (FSUN 0025)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; free food on duty; workers compensation & medical provided by employer. Contact: Saigon Enterprises, Inc. dba Saigon Vietnam Restaurant @233-6868.

**2 COOK (FSUN 0026)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Ming Dynasty Investment Corp. dba Ming Palace Chinese Restaurant @234-1005.

**1 WAITRESS/WAITER (FSUN 0027)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self

arranged housing; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Ming Dynasty Investment Corp. dba Ming Palace Chinese Restaurant @234-1005.

**1 BARTENDER (FSUN 0028)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Ming Dynasty Investment Corp. dba Ming Palace Chinese Restaurant @234-1005.

**CARPENTER (FSUN 0029)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

**2 MASON (FSUN 0030)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

**1 CARPET LAYER (FSUN 0031)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

**1 BLDG. MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (FSUN 0032)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

**1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (FSUN 0033)**  
Salary:\$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

**1 BDLG. MAINTENANCE (CLEANER) REPAIRER (FSUN 0034)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

**1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (FSUN 0035)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

**1 GRAPHICS DESIGNER (FSUN 0036)**  
Salary:\$1,670.00/monthly. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Hi-Five Co., Ltd. @233-4616.

**1 INTERPRETER (ASSISTANT ADVISOR) (FSUN 0037)**  
Salary:\$1,000.00-\$1,500.00/monthly. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Hi-Five Co., Ltd. @233-4616.

**1 ACCOUNTING MANAGER (FSUN 0038)**  
Salary:\$1,211.54-\$1,332.70/monthly. Benefits: Free housing

if no A/C; medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: Triple J Saipan, Inc. @234-1795.

**3 CAR RENTAL CLERK (FSUN 0039)**  
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.15/hour. Benefits: Free housing if no A/C; medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: Triple J Rentals (Micronesia), Inc. dba Hertz Rent A Car @234-1795.

**1 LOT ATTENDANT (SUPERVISOR) (FSUN 0040)**  
Salary:\$4.33-\$4.50/hour. Benefits: Free housing if no A/C; medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: Triple J Rentals (Micronesia), Inc. dba Hertz Rent A Car @234-1795.

**1 AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC (FSUN 0041)**  
Salary:\$3.90-\$4.15/hour. Benefits: Free housing if no A/C; medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: Triple J Rentals (Micronesia), Inc. dba Hertz Rent A Car @234-1795.

**1 ETHYLENE COMPRESSOR OPERATOR (FSUN 0042)**  
Salary:\$4.40-\$4.65/hour. Benefits: Free housing if no A/C; medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods, Inc. @322-6502.

**1 ACCOUNTANT (FSUN 0043)**  
Salary:\$6.06-\$6.31/hour. Benefits: Free housing if no A/C; medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods, Inc. @322-6502.

**2 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (FSUN 0044)**  
Salary:\$3.55-\$6.25/hour. Benefits: Self arranged food; medical coverage expenses & workers compensation. Contact: Joseph C. Ada dba Ada's Apartment @234-6854.

**1 GEN. MAINTENANCE & REPAIR (FSUN 0045)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Dr. Vicente S. Aldan @235-8864.

**1 OPERATION MANAGER (SUNT 0017)**  
Salary:\$4.00-\$5.50/hour. Benefits: Medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: C&R Corporation dba C&R Distributors @235-7379.

**1 ACCOUNTANT (SUNT 0018)**  
Salary:\$3.55-\$6.00/hour. Benefits:

Company provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical coverage. Contact: Juan T. Guerrero & Associates, Inc. @234-8803/04.

**1 ACCOUNTANT (SUNT 0019)**  
Salary:\$3.55-\$6.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical coverage. Contact: Juan T. Guerrero & Associates, Inc. @234-8803/04.

**1 CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (SUNT 0020)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical coverage. Contact: Insurance & Business Management Corp. dba Mita Travel @234-7888.

**1 ACCOUNTANT (SUNT 0021)**  
Salary:\$3.55-\$5.00/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; self provided food; workers compensation & medical coverage. Contact: Insurance & Business Management Corp. dba Mita Travel @234-7888.

**1 SALES ROUTE DRIVER (SUNT 0022)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self housing; self food; workers compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Heroge Ent., Inc. dba Mountain Fresh Water @234-3588.

**1 WELDER (SUNT 0023)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self housing; self food; workers compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Heroge Ent., Inc. dba Diesel Equip. Service @234-3588.

**1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (FSUN 0046)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Luen Fung Ent., (Saipan), Inc. @234-7243.

**2 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (FSUN 0047)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Luen Fung Ent., (Saipan), Inc. @234-7243.

**1 BUTCHER (FSUN 0048)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Luen Fung Ent., (Saipan), Inc. @234-7243.

**1 STORE SUPERVISOR (FSUN 0047)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's & health expenses company provided. Contact: LiliaAlcairo dba Kamiseta @233-2244.

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
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All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements in Saipan that include corresponding benefits and which positions are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

**ADVERTISING DEADLINE**

**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

**Job Vacancy Announcements**

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:  
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

**CANCELLATION**

**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

**Job Vacancy Announcements**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

**REFUNDS**

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

**CHECK YOUR ADS**

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

**ADVERTISING POLICY**

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.





## JOB OPPORTUNITIES



## 2 MASON (FSUN 0048)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical/compensation. Contact: Leticia Reyes dba LR Consulting & Construction @233-0691/323-0691.

## 1 SALES MANAGER (FSUN 0049)

Salary:\$1,800.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; transportation self arrange; medical & workers compensation insurance employer provided. Korean speaking, reading and writing is a must. Contact: Blue Star Corporation dba Saipan Island Tour @287-1259.

## 1 MARKETING MANAGER (FSUN 0050)

Salary:\$1,200.00-\$1,500.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; transportation self arrange; medical & workers compensation insurance employer provided. Korean speaking, reading and writing is a must.

Contact: Blue Star Corporation dba Saipan Island Tour @287-1259.

## 1 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR (FSUN 0051)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Saipan Fashion Company dba Li Hua Dress Shop @234-1282.

## 1 GENERAL MANAGER (FSUN 0052)

Salary:\$615.33-\$800.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: American Global Voice Ltd. dba VIP Massage @233-8119.

## 1 GENERAL MANAGER (FSUN 0053)

Salary:\$650.00-\$750.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by

employer. Contact: Dolphin Brain Inc. @233-0174.

## MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR (FSUN 0054)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Sim Corporation @235-2162.

## 1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (FSUN 0055)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Sim Corporation @235-2162.

## 1 GAS ATTENDANT (FSUN 0056)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Sim Corporation @235-2162.

## 1 COOK HELPER (FSUN 0057)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; worker compensation

insurance. Contact: Park Corporation dba Dae Jang Kum Restaurant @234-9595.

## 1 MANAGER (SUNT 0024)

Salary:\$615.33-\$1,200.00/monthly. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Ameriana Corporation @234-6913.

## 1 OPERATION MANAGER (SUNT 0025)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; worker compensation insurance and medical provided. Contact: Bernadita R. Cabrera dba North Shore Marine Sports @483-9991.

## 1 STORE MANAGER (SUNT 0026)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical reimbursable & workmen's compensation. Contact: Arenas Enterprises, Inc. dba Oche's Mini Store @233-6850.

## SPORTS

# Jeff Maggert leads storm-delayed PODS

**PALM HARBOR, Fla.** (AP)—The wind was blowing hard enough to sweep sand out of the bunkers and knock down scores Friday at the PODS Championship. Jeff Maggert used it to his advantage.

Starting his second round with the wind at his back, Maggert birdied three of his opening four holes and hung on long enough to be leading by three shots at the turn when play was suspended for the rest of the day because of storms.

Maggert was at 8-under par, three shots ahead of Kenny Perry and D.J. Trahan. For the second straight day, none of the late starters came close to finishing the round.

"I've only played 27 holes," Maggert said. "I've got a lot of the tournament in front of me. Even though I have the lead now, I'm not really looking at my position. I'm just trying to play solid and give myself an opportunity to finish off this round with a good score."

About 15 minutes after the siren sounded to stop play, the sky opened and dumped even more rain on the Copperhead course at Innisbrook. That might not be a bad thing, for softer greens at least gave players a fighting chance.

"At least it's not cold yet," said Mark Calcavecchia, the defending champion who shot a 1-under 70 and was tied for the clubhouse lead at 3-under 139 with two-time U.S. Open champion Lee Janzen (74), Billy Mayfair (71), Stuart Appleby (73) and Paul Casey (72).

Only three players among the early starters managed to break 70, with Tim Petrovic and Kevin Sutherland leading the way at 68.

Everyone braced for scores to tumble in the afternoon, so it was a surprise to see Maggert play as though this were the Bob Hope Classic on a calm day in the desert.

Along with getting the good end of the draw, however, Maggert started his second round on the right side of the course.

He holed an 8-foot birdie putt on the par-5 first hole, then hit driver with the wind at his back 324 yards, leaving him a simple pitch from 78 yards to 5 feet for another birdie. His first big test was the par-3 fourth, which played into the wind. Maggert hammered a 4-iron that fed to the middle of the green, from where he holed an 18-foot birdie.

Others were long gone by then.

Ernie Els, coming off a victory last week in the Honda Classic, birdied his last two holes to salvage a 73, leaving him at 4-over 146 and likely to miss the cut.

"It's very tough, demanding golf," he said. "I didn't quite have it."

Davis Love III was 3 under for his first three holes until he started giving shots back, shooting 72 to miss the cut for the second time since returning from ankle surgery.

Six players failed to break 80, including David Toms (81), which might end up costing him a spot in the World Golf Championship in two weeks at Doral.

John Daly also shot 80 for the first time this year.

Janzen, winless since his second U.S. Open title 10 years ago at Olympic Club, played 21 holes on Friday. He returned in the morning to finish his first round, hitting a 3-iron off the pine needles to 20 feet for birdie on the tough 16th to catch first-round leader Bart Bryant at 6-under 65.

The next 18 holes were more of a struggle.

The layers of clouds moved quickly over the course behind 20 mph wind, the kind that exposes the slightest mistakes. Janzen is playing better, but the wind showed him he's not quite there yet. He made five bogeys, but cobbled enough birdies together to stay in the hunt.

"It's an extreme challenge to play in the wind," he said. "As the round went on, I didn't quite have my game. I was hoping to run out of holes quick."

Calcavecchia also had a long day with mixed results, starting with a chip-in for eagle on the 14th hole of his first round in the morning, hanging on for dear life later in the morning to complete his second round. The wind got so strong that he barely cleared the large pond in front of the tee on the par-5 fifth, and he made fun of short-hitting Corey Pavin for waiting on a lull to get over the water.

"That's the only way he could clear the water," Calcavecchia said.

A year ago, Calcavecchia narrowly made the cut, then shot 62 in the third round that carried him to victory.

"There won't be any 62s today or tomorrow," he said.

Not even the temperature? "Maybe a 52 with the wind chill," he said.

A cold front was due, along with more wind, and several players already spent a week in the wind at the Honda Classic.

The 71 players who didn't finish the second round were to return at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, and no telling what the weather was going to do. Janzen and Calcavecchia had no idea where 3 under would leave them going into the third round, only that they wouldn't be far off.

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# Giants reward Coughlin with 4-year deal



**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)**—Tom Coughlin was rewarded for the New York Giants' Super Bowl victory, agreeing to a four-year, \$21 million contract Friday that will make him one of the NFL's highest-paid coaches.

He will earn about \$5.25 million annually, according to a person with knowledge of the deal who spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because the contract hasn't been signed. The person said the team will announce the deal Saturday. The two sides had the outline of the deal in place for weeks.

The contract represents a \$2 million increase over last season and what he was to have earned this year. Seattle's Mike Holmgren is the NFL's top-paid coach at \$8 million a year.

Gary O'Hagan, Coughlin's agent, did not return a call. The Giants had no comment.

"I don't think Tom's going to change," veteran punter Jeff Feagles said in a telephone interview. "The monetary value, that falls into line with what other coaches make. And especially with the Giants, you're rewarded for what you do on the field and your dedication, and Tom deserves every bit of it."

Coughlin had been on the verge of being fired after the Giants went 8-8 in 2006 and were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs for the second straight year. Coughlin and the Giants (14-6) both staged remarkable turnarounds, capped by a 17-14 win over the previously unbeaten New England in the Super Bowl in Glendale, Ariz.

Coughlin was an assistant coach on Bill Parcells' staff when the Giants won the Super Bowl in 1991. He left to coach



New York Giants coach Tom Coughlin is shown in this December file photo in Chicago.

AP

Boston College and eventually took the head job with the expansion Jacksonville Jaguars. Coughlin has a 103-89 record in 12 NFL seasons, including a 35-29 mark in four seasons with New York.

"We know what we'll be getting with Tom, and that makes a difference to a player," said Feagles, who signed a new two-year contract on Feb. 12. "You bring somebody else in, you never know if they're going to change your routine. But we all know how structured Tom is. And now we all know he'll be around for a few more years."

Once an unyielding disciplinarian, Coughlin became a kinder, gentler coach. He still demanded perfection, but he was wise enough to enlist a group of veterans to get his message across.

It helped when the Giants were routed by Dallas and Green Bay in their first two games. The two blowouts had some fans screaming for Coughlin to be fired, and many felt this was going to be a long year for the Giants.

Coughlin went to his leadership council, and told them that there was no other group that he would rather be coaching.

The message got to the players and the Giants went on a six-game winning streak, starting with a victory over the Washington Redskins that was preserved by a late goal-line stand.

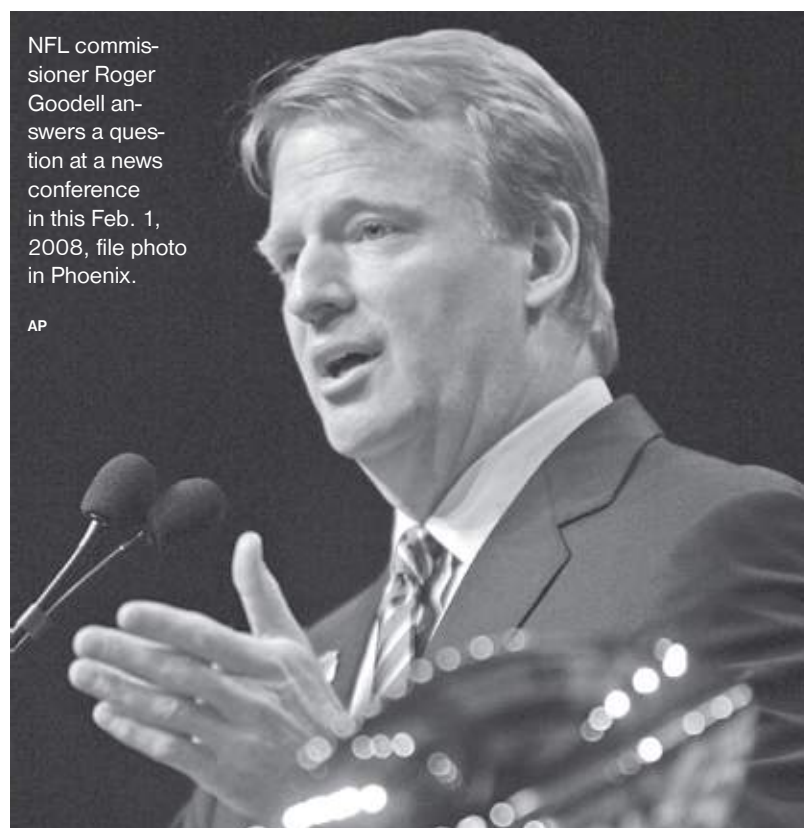
New York eventually clinched a playoff berth by rallying to beat Buffalo in the next-to-last week of the year. The last week of the regular-season and the playoffs were magical.

With nothing to play for in the reg-

ular-season finale against the Patriots, New York played an inspired game behind Eli Manning and opened a 12-point second-half lead against Tom Brady & Co. before losing 38-35.

The performance gave the Giants confidence going into the playoffs and they rode it. They beat Tampa Bay in the wild-card game, avenged two earlier losses to the NFC East champion Cowboys in the conference semifinal and then got back at Brett Favre and the Packers in overtime on a frigid day in Green Bay, earning their fourth Super Bowl trip.

A 12-point underdog in the title game, the Giants battered Brady and got a late-minute TD pass from Manning to Plaxico Burress to win their third Super Bowl.



NFL commissioner Roger Goodell answers a question at a news conference in this Feb. 1, 2008, file photo in Phoenix.

AP

## Goodell seeks harsher spying penalties

**NEW YORK (AP)**—NFL commissioner Roger Goodell wants to crack down on spying next season with more inspections and harsher penalties, steps that follow the disciplining of the New England Patriots for tapping opponents' signals.

Goodell is urging tougher action on teams and employees that would include unannounced inspections of locker rooms and coaches' areas in press boxes and a lower standard of proof for imposing discipline on those who violate rules. Loss of draft choices would be a possible punishment.

The changes, first disclosed in The Washington Post on Friday, are contained in a memo obtained by The Associated Press. It was sent to the league's rule-making competition committee, which will make recommendations to the owners at the league meeting starting March 30 in Palm Beach, Fla.

"I think there are a number of steps that should be taken in advance of the start of the 2008 season to improve and strengthen the enforcement procedures designed to preserve the competitive integrity of the game," Goodell wrote in the memo.

It is a direct outgrowth from Spygate, which resulted in severe fines against coach Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots, and the forfeiture of New England's first-round draft choice after the confiscation of tapes during the opening game of the season against the New York Jets.

The tapes and other evidence were subsequently destroyed, leading to further outcry, including a meeting between Goodell and Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., who expressed his displeasure at disclosures that the Patriots' spying may have gone back to 2000.

Competition committee members also suggested Friday that the memo is less about Spygate than it is about finding a way to keep up with advances in technology.

"When we met with commissioner, the discussion was how we proceed in an era when technology is expanding exponentially," Indianapolis Colts president Bill Polian said. "The question is how do we keep on top of that. This is far less about what happened in the past and how we deal with it in the future."

Among other things, Goodell wants fewer constraints on him in punishing violators.

"Too often," he wrote, "competitive violations have gone unpunished because conclusive proof of the violation was lacking. I believe we should reconsider the standard of proof to be applied in such cases, and make it easier for a competitive violation to be established."

"And where a violation is shown, I intend to impose more stringent penalties on both the club and the responsible individual(s). I will also be prepared to make greater use of draft choice forfeiture in appropriate cases. I believe this will have the effect of deterring violations and making people

more willing to report violations on a timely basis."

Enforcement would include spot checks of team offices, including locker rooms, coaches' booths and in-stadium communication systems and equipment as well as "enhanced monitoring of team practices."

"Many of these checks will be virtually unannounced and clubs would be expected fully to cooperate with this effort," Goodell wrote.

On another matter, Goodell said

he supports the use of radios for defensive players to get signals from the sideline, which now are limited only to offense.

The measure came up at last year's meetings but was not approved because coaches and team officials were concerned that too many players might have to be wired because in many cases, a player with a radio in his helmet might be out of the game on some plays. On offense, only the quarterbacks have radios in helmets.

## Raiders add free agents

**ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)**—The Oakland Raiders signed former Pro Bowl receiver Javon Walker and free agent offensive tackle Kwame Harris, adding two offensive players the team hopes will help quarterback JaMarcus Russell.

Walker will receive a \$6 million signing bonus and \$5 million in salary in each of the first two years. The six-year deal could be worth up to \$55 million, a person familiar with the contract said on condition of anonymity because the terms were not released.

Harris is guaranteed \$3 million in the first year of his deal that would pay him \$16 million over three years, the person said.

The signings fill positions of need for the Raiders, who are trying to build their offense around Russell, the first overall pick in last year's draft.

Oakland also has renegotiated running back Dominic Rhodes' contract this week, securing his return for next season. Rhodes was due a \$2 million roster bonus on Friday, but agreed to restructure his deal.

Rhodes signed as a free agent last year after helping Indianapolis win the Super Bowl. He was suspended for the first four games last season and played sparingly until Justin Fargas went down with a knee injury late in the year. Rhodes ran for 237 yards the last two games of the season and is expected to share the load with Fargas next season.

After losing receiver Jerry Porter to Jacksonville through free agency, the Raiders had only one wide receiver under contract with more than six career catches.

Walker was released by Denver last week after catching 26 passes for 287 yards and no touchdowns in eight games last season. He started the season with two 100-yard games before missing two months following a third operation on his right knee.

He was supplanted by Brandon Marshall as the team's top receiver and was released so the Broncos could avoid paying him a \$5.4 million option bonus.

Coming off a torn knee ligament that wiped out most of his 2005 season in Green Bay, Walker piled up 1,084 yards and eight touchdowns on 69 catches in 2006 for Denver.

Walker made the Pro Bowl with the Packers in 2004 after catching 89 passes for 1,382 yards and 12 touchdowns. He has 252 career catches for 3,815 yards and 30 scores.

Ronald Curry led the Raiders with 55 receptions for 717 yards last season, but had only 11 catches in the final five games last season. Curry has 174 career receptions for 2,166 yards and 11 touchdowns.

The other receivers under contract are Johnnie Lee Higgins, who had six catches as a rookie last season for 47 yards, Will Buchanan, who has one career reception, and Drisan James and Todd Watkins, who have never caught a pass in the NFL.

The Raiders also needed help at tackle after cutting last year's starting left tackle Barry Sims. They also re-signed free agent Cornell Green later Wednesday. Green started at right tackle for most of last season.

Harris, a first-round pick by San Francisco in 2003, started all 32 games in 2005-06 for the 49ers before being relegated to a backup role last season. Harris has been plagued by penalty problems throughout his career, but Oakland is hoping line coach Tom Cable can resurrect him.



# Sixers nail Sonics to notch 8<sup>th</sup> straight home win

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—The Philadelphia 76ers recorded their eighth straight home victory by thrashing the Seattle SuperSonics 117-83 in the NBA on Friday.

Samuel Dalembert had 22 points and 13 rebounds to lead Philadelphia, which has won three straight overall to move into seventh place in the mediocre Eastern Conference, where only five of 15 teams have winning records.

**Bobcats 108, Hawks 93**

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Raymond Felton had 23 points and 11 assists as a new-look Charlotte continued its surprising turnaround by beating Atlanta.

Matt Carroll scored 21 points in another balanced effort for the fourth-year Bobcats, who matched a team record with their fourth straight win. Charlotte is three games out of the last playoff berth in the East.

**Wizards 110, Raptors 106, OT**

In Toronto, Antawn Jamison had 25 points and 16 rebounds to lead Washington over Toronto in overtime.

The Wizards had six players score in double figures. Jamison scored six of the Wizards' last eight points in overtime.

**Warriors 134, Heat 99**

In Miami, Stephen Jackson scored 22 points to lead Golden State past undermanned Miami.

Al Harrington added 17 points and Baron Davis had 15 points and 10 assists for the Warriors.

Miami only had seven available players and played the final 4-1/2 minutes with one available substitute.

The Heat lost for the 30th time in its past 33 games to retain the NBA's worst record.



Philadelphia 76ers Samuel Dalembert celebrates after scoring against the Seattle SuperSonics during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game Friday, March 7, 2008, in Philadelphia.

**Pistons 101, Knicks 97**

In New York, Tayshaun Prince scored 28 points to lead Detroit over New York.

The Pistons rebounded from losing to Eastern Conference rival Boston and are now just one win off clinching their seventh straight playoff berth.

The Knicks lost their fifth in a row.

**Celtics 116, Bulls 93**

In Boston, the home side was able to rest its starters for the fourth quarter in beating Chicago and notching a seventh straight win.

Paul Pierce scored 22 points and Kevin Garnett added 16 and eight rebounds for the Celtics, who remained four wins ahead of Detroit as the Eastern Conference's best team.

Boston, which won its 10th consecutive home game, led

by 12 points after a quarter and 20 after two.

**Hornets 107, Nets 96**

In New Orleans, the home side won its third straight by beating New Jersey.

Chris Paul had 25 points and 16 assists for the Hornets, who remained just a game off Southwest Division leader San Antonio.

**Trail Blazers 103, Bucks 101**

In Milwaukee, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 29 points, including a 13-foot jumpshot with 2.4 seconds remaining, to rally Portland over Milwaukee.

The Trail Blazers won after trailing by eight points in the fourth quarter.

**Jazz 126, Suns 118**

In Phoenix, Utah handed Phoenix its third consecutive home loss.

Carlos Boozer scored 17 of his 23 points in the second half, including a tough 8-foot bank shot with 31.1 seconds to play, for the Jazz, which posted its fourth successive win.

Utah stayed three games clear atop the Northwest Division, while Phoenix has dropped to sixth in the Western Conference playoff standings.

**Timberwolves 111, Kings 103**

In Sacramento, California, Minnesota recorded a rare road win and snapped a five-game losing streak by downing Sacramento.

Al Jefferson had 21 points and 13 rebounds for the Timberwolves.

Kevin Martin scored a career-high 48 points and tied the Kings' Sacramento record by hitting 22 of 24 free throws.

**Lakers 119, Clippers 82**

In Los Angeles, the Lakers went on a 3-point shooting spree in the second half to win the all-Los Angeles match.

Derek Fisher scored 17 points and Kobe Bryant had 16 as the Pacific Division-leading Lakers went 12-of-17 from 3-point range in the second half.

The win put the Lakers clear top of the Western Conference standings.

**Nuggets 109, Spurs 96**

In Denver, the home side snapped San Antonio's 11-game winning streak.

Allen Iverson scored 29 points despite spraining his right ring finger in the first half as the Nuggets swept the Spurs at home for the first time since 1988-89.

San Antonio lost its lead of the Western Conference and is only a game ahead of New Orleans in the Southwest Division.

**TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**

NBA STANDINGS							
EASTERN CONFERENCE					John Mallinger	73-73	146
Atlantic Division					Chris Stroud	74-72	146
	W	L	Pct	GB	Brett Quigley	73-74	147
x-Boston	48	12	.800	—	Davis Love III	75-72	147
Toronto	33	28	.541	15 1/2	Vaughn Taylor	69-78	147
Philadelphia	29	33	.468	20	Roland Thatcher	70-77	147
New Jersey	26	36	.419	23	Jason Day	71-76	147
New York	18	44	.290	31	Jon Mills	71-78	149
Southeast Division					Eric Axley	74-75	149
Orlando	40	23	.635	—	Jay Williamson	73-77	150
Washington	30	31	.492	9	Boo Weekley	75-75	150
Atlanta	24	36	.400	14 1/2	John Huston	74-76	150
Charlotte	23	39	.371	16 1/2	Dustin Johnson	75-75	150
Miami	11	48	.186	27	Pat Perez	72-79	151
Central Division					David Toms	70-81	151
Detroit	45	17	.726	—	Michael Bradley	76-75	151
Cleveland	35	27	.565	10	Johnson Wagner	71-80	151
Chicago	25	37	.403	20	Jin Park	71-80	151
Indiana	24	38	.387	21	Brett Rufford	72-79	151
Milwaukee	23	39	.371	22	Shaun Micheel	74-78	152
WESTERN CONFERENCE					Richard Johnson	78-74	152
Southwest Division					Cliff Kresge	70-83	153
San Antonio	43	18	.705	—	Santiago Cavanagh	74-79	153
New Orleans	42	19	.689	1	Jim Renner	79-75	154
Houston	41	20	.672	2	Chris DiMarco	75-80	155
Dallas	39	23	.629	4 1/2	John Daly	78-80	158
Memphis	15	46	.246	28	DID NOT FINISH		
Northwest Division					Jeff Maggert	66	
Utah	41	22	.651	—	Kenny Perry	66	
Denver	37	24	.607	3	D.J. Trahan	68	
Portland	32	30	.516	8 1/2	Sean O'Hair	69	
Seattle	16	46	.258	24 1/2	Bart Bryant	65	
Minnesota	13	48	.213	27	Jeff Overton	68	
Pacific Division					Tag Ridings	70	
L.A. Lakers	44	18	.710	—	Tom Pernice, Jr.	67	
Phoenix	40	22	.645	4	Stewart Cink	66	
Golden State	38	23	.623	5 1/2	Daniel Chopra	70	
Sacramento	27	35	.435	17	Ted Purdy	69	
L.A. Clippers	20	40	.333	23	Billy Andrade	69	
x-clinched playoff spot					George McNeill	70	
Yesterday's Games					Nick Watney	68	
Washington 110, Toronto 106, OT					Brian Davis	70	
Charlotte 108, Atlanta 93					Chez Reavie	70	
Philadelphia 117, Seattle 83					Ryuji Imada	72	
Detroit 101, New York 97					Charles Warren	71	
Golden State 134, Miami 99					Jonathan Byrd	67	
Boston 116, Chicago 93					Troy Matteson	70	
New Orleans 107, New Jersey 96					Carl Pettersson	67	
Portland 103, Milwaukee 101					Brandt Snedeker	69	
Utah 126, Phoenix 118					Scott Verplank	71	
Minnesota 111, Sacramento 103					Todd Hamilton	70	
Denver 109, San Antonio 96					Brian Bateman	68	
L.A. Lakers 119, L.A. Clippers 82					Cameron Beckman	71	
PODS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES					Bill Haas	70	
PALM HARBOR, Florida (AP)—Incomplete second-round scores Friday from the \$5.3 million (EU3.46 million) PODS Championship being played on the Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club's 7,340-yard, par-71 Copperhead course (83 players didn't finish due to weather)					Peter Lonard	69	
SECOND ROUND					Steve Marino	70	
Billy Mayfair	68-71	139			Justin Rose	70	
Lee Janzen	65-74	139			Jose Coceres	74	
Mark Calcavecchia	69-70	139			Retief Goosen	70	
Stuart Appleby	66-73	139			Fred Couples	69	
Paul Casey	67-72	139			J.P. Hayes	71	
Tim Petrovic	72-68	140			Kenneth Ferrie	71	
Heath Slocum	69-71	140			Derek Lamely	70	
Shigeaki Maruyama	69-71	140			James Driscoll	71	
Michael Letzig	69-71	140			Steve Elkington	73	
Alex Cejka	69-72	141			J.J. Henry	71	
John Senden	67-74	141			Robert Allenby	70	
Rod Pampling	70-71	141			Chad Campbell	71	
Geoff Ogilvy	69-72	141			Stephen Ames	71	
Frank Lickliter II	68-73	141			Dean Wilson	71	
Charlie Wi	69-73	142			Marc Turnesa	70	
Kevin Sutherland	74-68	142			Bob Estes	71	
Ryan Armour	69-73	142			Bubba Watson	72	
Hunter Mahan	72-70	142			Mathias Gronberg	72	
Jerry Kelly	67-75	142			Shane Bertsch	71	
Patrick Sheehan	69-73	142			Kevin Stadler	72	
Nicholas Thompson	67-75	142			Trevor Immelman	72	
Rich Beem	69-74	143			David Duval	70	
Lucas Glover	71-72	143			Ryan Moore	70	
Olin Browne	70-73	143			Michael Allen	73	
Kevin Streelman	70-74	144			Ken Duke	70	
Robert Garrigus	70-74	144			Craig Barlow	71	
Jason Gore	69-75	144			Briny Baird	72	
Ben Crane	71-73	144			Mark Wilson	72	
Steve Stricker	70-74	144			Joe Durant	72	
Robert Gamez	75-69	144			Tommy Armour III	72	
Mathew Goggins	72-72	144			Rocco Mediate	72	
Nathan Green	67-77	144			Stephen Leaney	72	
Matt Jones	72-72	144			J.B. Holmes	74	
Steve Flesch	72-73	145			Parker McLachlin	75	
Paul Goydos	71-74	145			Nick O'Hern	72	
Charles Howell III	71-74	145			Brian Gay	73	
Tim Herron	74-71	145			Will MacKenzie	74	
Corey Pavin	75-70	145			John Rollins	75	
Jesper Parnevik	73-72	145			Marco Dawson	74	
Nick Flanagan	70-75	145			Jeff Quinney	75	
Charley Hoffman	70-76	146			Paul Azinger	79	
Steve Lowery	70-76	146			Patrick Olive	84	
Ernie Els	73-73	146			LEADERBOARD		

	SCORE	THRU
1. Jeff Maggert	-8	9
2. Kenny Perry	-5	9
2. D.J. Trahan	-5	7
4. Sean O'Hair	-4	10
4. Bart Bryant	-4	7
4. Jeff Overton	-4	4
7. Billy Mayfair	-3	F
7. Lee Janzen	-3	F
7. Mark Calcavecchia	-3	F
7. Stuart Appleby	-3	F
7. Paul Casey	-3	F
7. Tag Ridings	-3	10
7. Tom Pernice, Jr.	-3	9
7. Stewart Cink	-3	8
7. Daniel Chopra	-3	7
7. Ted Purdy	-3	5
7. Billy Andrade	-3	4

By The Associated Press

## Liriano solid in first start

**FORT MYERS, Fla.** (AP)—Francisco Liriano faced a major league team for the first time in 18 months, gave up no runs and felt no pain.

He even made Manny Ramirez look silly on a changeup that the Red Sox slugger flailed at for a third strike. And he made Twins pitching coach Rick Anderson smile.

"He felt great," Anderson said. "His first outing was outstanding and we just build off of that."

Minnesota beat Boston 7-2 Friday behind homers from Justin Morneau and Craig Monroe off Clay Buchholz in the first inning. The best news, though, was that Liriano felt fine in his first game against a big league club since he underwent Tommy John ligament replacement surgery on Nov. 6, 2006.

"I feel good. I feel strong. No pain, no soreness at all," he said. "I was a little bit nervous, but after the first hitter that went away."

The left-hander threw 40 pitches in 1 2-3 innings, allowing two hits and a walk with one strikeout. He retired five of the first six batters, giving up a walk to David Ortiz, before allowing singles to Sean Casey and Keith Ginter. He then was replaced by Nick Blackburn.

Liriano moved closer to a spot in the rotation that needs him badly after ace Johan Santana was traded to the New York Mets and free agent Carlos Silva signed with Seattle.

"I miss Johan because he would play around with me all the time," the 24-year-old Liriano said, "him and Carlos Silva. I miss him a lot."

Liriano's fastball and changeup were impressive but he'd like to improve his slider as he pursues a starting spot.

"He's on his way now," Anderson said. "All the other starters are getting their second start. Now he's on his first and so we still have some time to keep getting him stretched out a little bit and I felt a little better just basically seeing him on

the mound again. I'm sure he feels better."

Liriano was a sensation in 2006 when he went 12-3 with a 2.16 ERA and 144 strikeouts in 121 innings. He made the AL All-Star team, then his season was cut short by the injury and he pitched just one game after Aug. 7. That was on Sept. 13 when he pitched two solid innings but didn't get another out.

"The last two pitches I threw, I felt a pop and it really hurts," he said after the 1-0 loss to Oakland.

He arrived at spring training more than a week after pitchers and catchers began formal workouts because of a visa delay in his native Dominican Republic.

Liriano isn't throwing with his customary aggressiveness, not yet.

"I'm holding back a little bit because I don't want to rush," he said. "I have to take it easy and make sure that I feel good."

His motion was less energetic than it had been, a change Anderson hopes can help him avoid injury.

"On his finish, he's not so

violent recoiling," Anderson said. "He looked pretty calm."

Buchholz, a rookie who made a big splash last season, struggled for the second straight game. He pitched a no-hitter in his second major league start last year and is rated baseball's No. 4 prospect by Baseball America, one spot behind Joba Chamberlain of the New York Yankees.

The two homers put Buchholz in a 3-0 hole before he retired his remaining seven batters.

He left a changeup to Morneau over the plate on a 1-2 pitch and he "hit it about a mile" for a two-run homer, Red Sox manager Terry Francona said.

"It took him an inning to really kind of find his rhythm and establish all his pitches," Boston pitching coach John Farrell said. "He recognizes he's got some work to do and adjustment to make. You've got to love his stuff."

The Twins made it 5-0 with two runs in the fourth off Jonathan Papelbon, whose new \$775,000, one-year contract, nearly doubling his salary, was announced Thursday.



# The Week in Sports

## Best performances of 2007 take center stage



MARK RABAGO

The CNMI's all-time winningest pitcher Tony Benavente was enshrined into the Sports Hall of Fame of the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association last Tuesday during the annual Athlete of the Year banquet at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.



JON PEREZ

Athletes of the Year winners, from left, Jacque Wonenberg (Female Student), Ji Hoon Heo (Male Student), Sarah Johnson (Female Athlete), and Tyrone Omar (Male Athlete), join Coach of the Year awardee Jeff Race for a group photo in last Tuesday's annual Athlete of the Year banquet of the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association held at the poolside of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

By **MARK RABAGO**  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The past week saw record-breaking sprinter Tyrone Omar win the Male Athlete of the Year, while swimmer Sarah Johnson earned the same title for women in Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association 2007 Athlete of the Year banquet.

Tennis wunderkind Ji Hoon Heo and multi-event princess Jacque Wonenberg were also cited for their excellent performances in 2007 when they were named the Male and Female Student Athletes of the Year.

Former Pacific Oceania Davis Cup captain and CNMI national tennis coach Jeff Race and the CNMI's all-time winningest pitcher Tony Benavente were also honored last Tuesday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan when they won NMASA Coach of the Year and enshrined into the Sports Hall of Fame, respectively.

Last Sunday, meanwhile, saw Johnson (38:06) and Rezne Wong (34:43) top the 2,500-meter distance of the 30th Annual Saipan Ocean Swim held in the waters off the Saipan World Resort beach.

A day before that in the 2008 International Invitational Meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi, host Saipan Swim Club emerged as the champion after amassing a total of 938.5 points to enjoy a 418.5 lead over runner-up

Guam Typhoons, 520. Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan placed third with 457.

Last Friday, Grace Christian Academy Eagles and the Saipan International School Geckos claimed the girls and boys titles of the 2008 Private School League Junior Varsity Basketball League.

The Eagles used a third-quarter scoring rally to cruise to a 62-54 win over Sky Li-led Mt. Carmel Knights. The Lady Geckos, meanwhile, went undefeated the whole season before downing the Lady Eagles, 37-23, in the first game of Friday's championship doubleheader at Oleai.

Last week also saw Japanese pro golfer Kiyoshi Murota visit the islands with five of his friends as he continued to train for the upcoming Japan Token Homemade Golf Tournament in April.

The 2008 High School Outrigger Canoe season also continued with the high school teams of the Kagman Ayuyus and Marianas Dolphins leading the pack after March 1's race held in the waters off Kilili Beach.

The week also saw the continuation of games in the SBA Open 8-Ball League, 2008 Indoor Winter Volleyball League, 2007-2008 HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League, 2008 Elementary Fast-pitch Softball League, and 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League. Games in the Saipan Little League Baseball Association were called off last weekend because of the haze.



JON PEREZ

Saipan World Resort's Jerryfel Mangahis, left, tries to score against Hyatt Regency Saipan's Edmark Mendoza in their game in the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



MARK RABAGO

Participants of the 1.3-kilometer distance of the 30th Annual Saipan Ocean Swim take off from the beach behind the Saipan World Resort last Sunday.



JON PEREZ

Seventh Day Adventist School principal Sean Maycock joins his players for a group photo after receiving the perpetual sportsmanship award in Friday night's award ceremony in the Private School League's Junior Varsity Basketball League.



The Mt. Carmel High School Lady Knights strike a pose after March 1's high school outrigger canoe races at Kilili Beach.

JON PEREZ

Kiyoshi Murota poses for a photo after an interview Tuesday at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

JON PEREZ



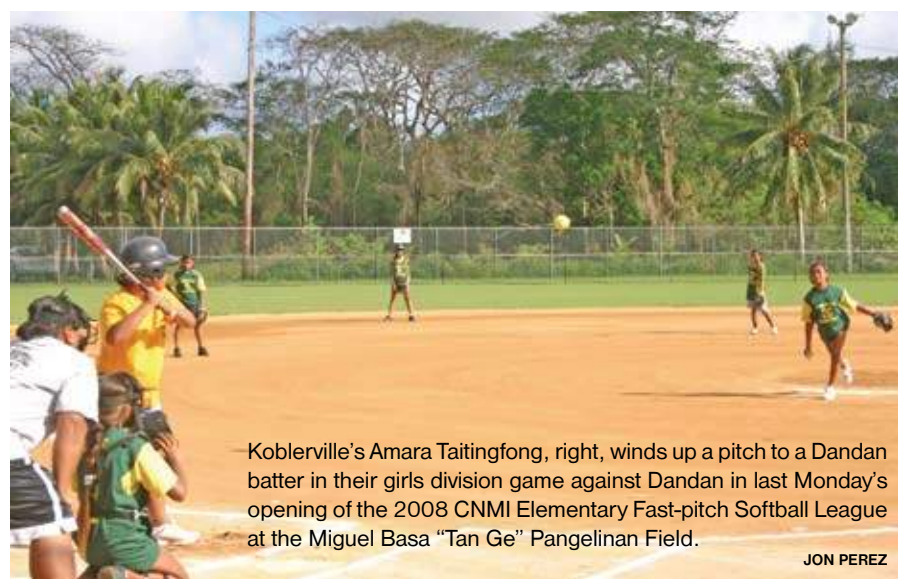
JON PEREZ

Kai Staal performs in the breaststroke event of last week's 2008 International Invitational Meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.



JON PEREZ

A Korean Dreams batter waits for the throw of Tigers pitcher Ben Dueñas in their game on Wednesday night in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.



Koblerville's Amara Taitingfong, right, winds up a pitch to a Dandan batter in their girls division game against Dandan in last Monday's opening of the 2008 CNMI Elementary Fast-pitch Softball League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

JON PEREZ





The wind was blowing hard enough to sweep sand out of the bunkers and knock down scores Friday at the PODS Championship. Jeff M-aggert used it to his advantage.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

The past week saw record-breaking sprinter Tyrone Omar win the Male Athlete of the Year, while swimmer Sarah Johnson earned the same title for women in Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association 2007 Athlete of the Year banquet.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Noble wins, Bucher extends reign

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Andrew Noble of Australia and Renata Bucher of Switzerland returned victoriously on Saipan yesterday besting a smaller field of professional triathletes in the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship and claim the first half of the Pacific Islands Club Double.

While Noble climbed from third to first to win his first XTERRA Saipan title, it was Bucher's fourth straight crown since dethroning former three-time winner Jamie Whitmore in 2005.

Noble, who placed third behind three-time XTERRA Saipan champion Switzerland's Olivier Marceau and Great Britain's Sam Gardner last year, had a blistering time of two hours, 46 minutes, and 51 seconds in crossing the finish line at the American Memorial Park, which was the sight of the past six editions of XTERRA Saipan.

Marceau opted to skip this year's XTERRA Saipan to concentrate more in an Olympic-distance triathlon in Mooloolaba, Australia in order to qualify for the Swiss National Olympic triathlon team in time for the Beijing Olympics, while Great Britain's Julie Dibbens and three-time XTERRA



Australia's Andrew Noble touches the tape after winning the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship yesterday at the American Memorial Park. Right, Renata Bucher of Switzerland reacts after crossing the finish line of yesterday's 1.5-kilometer swim, 30-km bike, and 12-km run off-road race.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Saipan women's titlist and 2004 XTERRA World champion Jamie Whitmore were injured while training.

Bucher recovered from a slow start in the swim leg of the race, hammering away in the bike and trail run sections to post the fastest time among female competitors, 3:12:46.

Overnight showers made the bike and trail sections a little bit difficult for all participants to complete as the rain made the

ground slippery and damp. The wet course could have affected Noble's and Bucher's time.

Their times were not the best compared to last year. Noble was seven minutes short of his previous record of 2:39:56, while Bucher failed to go under three hours this year after an XTERRA Saipan record of

2:45:08 last year.

Noble was unstoppable from the start of the race completing the 1.5-kilometer swim around the buoys off Micro Beach in 19:27 then continued to distance himself in the bike leg when he returned to AMP after 1:33:47.

The 16th Tagaman Triathlon defending champion Noble

completed the grueling race when he came out of the jungle trail run—which tested the participants' endurance as they maneuvered under roots, branches, and a cave along Mt. Tapochao—in 53:37.

Former XTERRA Amateur World Champion and 2006 Ironman Florida third place finisher Jim Vance of the United States placed second to Noble with a time of 2:58:07. He was just 20 seconds behind Noble after

the swim section but could not catch up with the Australian in the bike leg, completing the 30-km course in 1:39:17, which is third best behind Japan's Takahiro Ogasawara's 1:36:06 time.

Vance was lagging behind Ogasawara after the bike leg but managed to overtake and beat the Japanese in the trail run. Ogasawara placed third overall with a combined time of 3:03:09 (23:38 swim, 1:36:06 bike, and 1:03:25 run).

Bucher had 2007 XTERRA World Saipan qualifier Miek Carey as her lone opponent. At first, Carey held the upper hand in their two-cornered fight but failed to match Bucher's intensity midway in the bike leg.

Carey was ahead almost two minutes to Bucher after the swim section as the longtime Saipan resident came out of the water in 22:31, while the Swiss logged in a time of 24:05.

Bucher then hopped on her bike, which is her strongest discipline, and caught up with Carey midway toward Mt. Tapochao and completely broke loose, heading back into the run transition area at AMP.

She completed the bike in 1:45:09 for an almost 15-minute lead over Carey's 2:01:34 time. Bucher then held on to a 6:02 lead over Carey in the run finishing in 1:03:32 against the 1:09:34 of her opponent.

## Wet, muddy course bewilder pros

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Seasoned triathletes from newly crowned 7th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship winner Andrew Noble of Australia to Saipan's very own Miek Carey had to exercise more caution than usual during yesterday's 1.5-kilometer swim, 30-km bike, and 12-km run off-road race.

"XTERRA Saipan is always tough. The course, the heat, the hurts. But today it was extra tough because of the mud from the rain. It makes your tires very heavy on the bike and you've got to concentrate so you wouldn't fall. Then on the run it was so slippery your legs are tired from biking with all the mud on the tires... heavy tires and so you just have stay upright and just keep going. You'd never know if someone's behind because you can't see and it's just so tough...it was a challenge," said Noble

who completed the multi-sport event in 2:46:51.

Runner-up Jim Vance of San Diego, California echoed Noble's assessment of yesterday's race, but added a comic twist when he said that he will be bringing in ice skates when he returns next year.

"The course was very wet and muddy but it was a lot of fun. It you like the extreme it's definitely everything that you want. It was a lot of fun. It had a lot of everything—heat, mud, climbs, awesome single track, descents... it had it all and you had to be in the top of your game...I will ask my sponsor that I would need skates next year for the slippery rocks on the run because I think they'd be a little faster... or skis maybe," he said.

Vance negotiated the course in a time of 2:58:07, more than 10 minutes off Noble's pace.

Four-time women's champion of Renata Bucher, meanwhile, said the wet and muddy terrain on the bike and run portions of

the event forced her to become more careful during the race.

"It was hard because of the mud definitely and I was more careful and not risk too much as the race went on. It was definitely a tough race but I'm happy to finish," said Bucher, who came in at 3:12:46.

Bucher also welcomed the new bike loop race organizers added this year.

"I've always loved this course and with the additional of the new loop, it just made it more technical. Its hardest part has always been the swim. But this year's swim was shorter but it had some rocks though, so I was careful. I'm fond of coming here. It gives me energy for the whole season. I come here and I take energy [that allows me to] race well in Europe," she said.

Eli Torgeson, who was fourth overall in the men's division and topped the 35-39 age group with his time of 3:17:11, said aside from the mud and humidity the hardest



JON PEREZ

Andrew Noble of Australia, 7th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship winner, carefully negotiates the run portion of yesterday's 1.5-kilometer swim, 30-km bike, and 12-km run off-road race.

part of the race was continuing to race after a third spill.

"The hardest part was getting up after the third fall. I was in the

washer board route coming off Navy Hill [when that happened]. Three falls in all but fortunately nothing serious. That was the hardest race. You don't fall in [the] Boston [Marathon] but you fall here," the CHC anesthesiologist said. "It's actually more than I expected. Muddier and more grueling than I thought it would be. I think you feel like you're a red line from 30 minutes into the bike and it's hard to imagine you're going to finish the race."

Women's second place finisher Carey, for her part, said coming into the race she thought it was going to be easy because it rained the day before. But not only didn't it rain yesterday, the rain on Friday left the course wet and muddy.

"It was very slippery and it was a very hard course to finish. [There's] so much humidity. I thought the rain would come but it didn't so it was so hot. [The] bike was the hardest part. [I have] not practiced that much [riding on a bike] in muddy conditions before," she said.

Carey finished the course in 3:33:29.